

# KOONCE to KOONCE

January 1996

Official Publication of the Koonce Genealogical Society

Volume 3 Issue 1

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON NEW BERN AND CRAVEN COUNTY

by Gertrude Carraway

After his 1660 restoration to the throne of England, King Charles II on March 24, 1663, issued a Carolina Charter granting to eight of his loyal supporters as Lords Proprietors wide areas in the New World spreading from Virginia to the Spanish line of Florida and from the Atlantic to the "South Seas" or the Pacific Ocean. This territory was practically the same which had been given by his father, King Charles I, to Sir Robert Heath and which had then been called "Carolina" for Carolus or Charles. By a 2nd Charter June 30, 1665, Charles II extended the land limits to include what is now all or parts of fifteen states and northern Mexico.

One of the original Lords of Proprietors was William, Earl of Craven (1608-1693), a young, brave and courageous soldier, who had assisted Charles II financially. When he died without any lineal heirs, his share went to his grandnephew, William Lord Craven, whose son and title next inherited it.

Bath Precinct was divided in 1705 into 3 precincts, one of them being named Archdale for the 1694-1696 Quaker Proprietary Governor of Carolina. About 1712 this was designated Craven Precinct, honoring William Lord Craven. The term

Precinct was changed in 1739 to county.

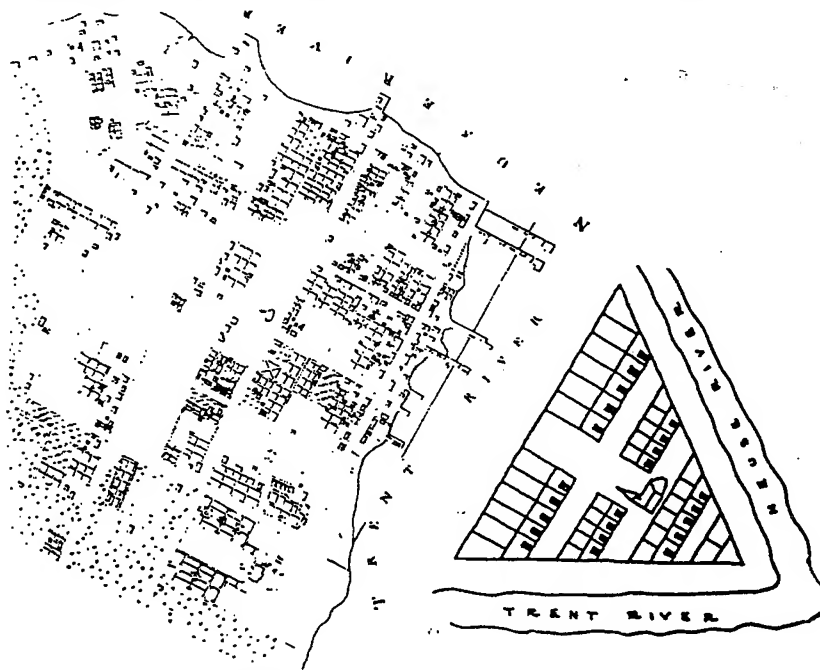
On December 7, 1710, Carolina was separated into North Carolina and South Carolina. Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon and cousin of Queen Anne of England, was appointed May 9, 1712, by the Lords Proprietors as the first Chief Executive of Albemarle, or North Carolina, independent of the government in South Carolina. Seven of the eight Lords Pro-

Huguenots under Pastor Phillips de Richebourg arrived in 1707 from a 1690 settlement in Virginia and colonized the other side of Trent River not far from the present location of New Bern. Before long they moved to South Carolina. Welsh Quakers settled during 1710 on Clubfoot and Hancock Creeks.

New Bern was founded in 1710 by German Palatines and Swiss colonists seeking religious and political freedom. Their leader was Baron Christopher DeGraffenried, a Swiss nobleman, born November 15, 1661. Although from Switzerland, he had spent much time in France and signed his name, "Christophle De Graffenried." Descendants continued to use the spelling of his surname but decapitalized and added the "de" to it as only one word. Queen Anne gave him encouragement and 4,200 English pounds to help start his colony here, which he named for

his native city of Bern. From the aboriginal Indians he bought the land of "Chattawka," their name for their local village, said to mean "where the fish are taken out." He laid out this town in the shape of a cross for two purposes: Religion and defense against the Indians.

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A 1710 triangular plan for the town of New Bern, North Carolina was not carried out after an Indian uprising destroyed the village. All members of the Koonce Family, except 7 Year old George, were killed in this uprising on 23 September 1711.

prietors, including Lord Craven, in 1729 sold their Carolina interests to the British Crown. North Carolina thus became a Royal Colony, with its governors appointed by the King.

Early settlers drifted to this region. Some came directly from Europe, others from colonies to the north. French

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## EDITORS CORNER

by John Paul Koonce



With this issue we start our third year of publication. While on a recent trip to Illinois Nancy & I met the Rev. Bob Koonce & family in Gibson City. Bob asked me if I ever thought of giving up on this Koonce research. My immediate answer was, "never". There have been times that I wonder if the Newsletter is worth all the effort, but then I will get a letter or phone call or e-mail from one of you and it makes it all worthwhile. Bob's son, John, is the John Koonce of the John Koonce Trio, a gospel singing group. I've got two of their tapes and they are very good and inspiring.

We also met Annalea (nee Koonce) German, and her wonderful husband Loyd and Annalea's sister Loretta (nee Koonce) Ludi. While we were at Loyd & Annalea's lovely home in Shobonier, IL, Lee Ray stopped in for a visit. Nancy & I met Lee and his wife on our last visit to Bond and Fayette Countys in Illinois. Annalea & Loretta are daughters of John Benjamin & Edna Flossie (nee Danials) Koonce and Lee is the son of Ida Mae (nee Koonce) & Albert Edwin Ray, both are descended from John Henry & Martha Ann (nee Pigg) Koonce, which is my line.

### Koonce Genealogical Society Newsletter KOONCE to KOONCE

is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. No attempt has been or will be made to verify the authenticity of any articles that are printed in this publication. It is intended to share information only. Send all inquiries to KOONCE to KOONCE, 1821 37th St. Somerset, WI 54025.

Subscription Rate      \$15.00 Year  
(Additional contributions accepted)

Mail Check or Money Order to: KGS 1821 37th St.  
Somerset, WI 54025

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## Historical Notes on New Bern And Craven County

(Continued from page 1)

Hardships developed. There was a scarcity of provisions and supplies. The new comers were unaccustomed to the climate, and some succumbed to diseases. Aid failed to come, as expected, from abroad. DeGraffenried and Surveyor John Lawaon were captured by Indians. The later was burned at the stake, deGraffenried was spared. Taking advantage of internal strife and difficulties throughout North Carolina, the Indians laid secret plans for the destruction of the white intruders. After their disastrous "Great Massacre" during September 1711, their attacks were halted at Fort Barnwell in Craven County. When badly defeated in a decisive battle March 20-23, 1713, near Snow Hill, the Tuscaroras journeyed to upper New York, joining the Five Nations of Indians there and giving the name of their old village here in, North Carolina, Chattayka, to their new home, now the world-famous Chautauqua, New York.

Discouraged and disillusioned, without funds or help, deGraffenried mortgaged the local lands to Col. Thomas Pollock, wealthy planter of the Chowan section and North Carolina's 1712-1714 Proprietary Governor. He then returned to Europe, arriving in Bern in December, 1713, and dying there on his eighty-second birthday in 1743.

By a 1715 Act of the Assembly North

Carolina was divided into church parishes. "Neuse River and the branches thereof" were designated as the Parish of Craven. Another Assembly Act that year listed the places where residents were to vote. For Craven Parish there were two voting sites, "At New Bern town, and Swift's Plantation." Despite hardships and dangers, New Bern and Craven Precinct grew and prospered. In 1723 New Bern was incorporated, made a Borough Town and the Precinct (County) Seat.

New Bern became rapidly Anglicized. Even its English pronunciation is still prevalent: NEW Bern, not New BERN. The last word is not spelled with a last "e". Burne is the French spelling. Bern, which means bear, is the German spelling. For centuries Switzerland has been predominantly German, and "Bern" is found there much more than "Berne". On the Plan of New Bern drafted in October 1710, by Baron deGraffenried the name does not have a final "e". Nor does it when the town was incorporated, During the Civil War, after New Bern had fallen March 14, 1862, to Union troops commanded by General Ambrose E. Burnside, Union soldiers added and "e" to New Bern. Following Reconstruction, at the insistence of local leaders, the General Assembly on February 20, 1899, officially fixed the spelling by law, as it had been originally: New Bern.

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**Koonce Genealogical Society (KGS)**

1821 37th St.

Somerset, WI 54025

# AUNT IDA 1861-1939

by Lindell Koonce



I will always remember her as very old, very small, very deaf and very bow legged. I was eleven years old when we first lived with her and at that age all adults seemed old but she was older than my parents so I thought she was really old. As I look at the dates now, I see that she was born in 1861 so she was always exactly 65 years older than me. Although Aunt Ida was in my family when I joined it, I never really noticed her until 1937 when my grandfather, Elmer Jacob Koonce, died, and we moved into his house with her because she was alone.

Ida Marie was one of four girls and three boys born to Nicholas Koonce and Margaret Phillips. Her father was born in Harpers Ferry, Virginia in 1830 and had come to Bond County, Illinois in 1837 with his father, whose name was also Nicholas, and his wife Elizabeth Shriver. Ida was born in 1861 and, like her father did in 1837, moved with her parents when they relocated in 1864 to Villa Ridge in

Pulaski County, Illinois.

I assume the children of Nicolas & Margaret Koonce had a normal childhood growing up on the eighty acre farm their father, cleared of timber and planted in fruits and vegetables. He sold his produce locally or shipped it by rail to the big market in Chicago.

In 1887 Ida married Maris Helman, they were both 26 years old. They had two children, a son that died as an infant and a girl that died when she was seven years old. In 1899 Maris Helman died leaving Ida childless and alone, but this would not be for very long.

Following the recession of 1898, Nicholas' health was failing, causing him to sell his farm. He and his wife, Margaret (nee Phillips), then moved in with Ida in her modest two bedroom log house just down the road from the farm they were giving up. Nicholas lived there with his daughter until his death in 1906. Grandma stayed there until she

died in 1920.

Three years after Ida and Maris married, Ida's younger sister Dasie married Maris' older brother Andrew. By 1900 this union had provided Ida with two nieces and a nephew. Her fondness for them was surely heightened by the memories of her

*(Continued on page 5)*

## NICHOLAS N. KOONCE

From an unknown book. Top of page 291  
Villa Ridge Precinct.

*Received from Lindell Koonce.*

N. N. Koonce, farmer and fruit grower, P.O. Villa Ridge, was born at Harper's Ferry, Va. October 24, 1830 to Nicholas and Elizabeth (Shriver) Koonce. Both were born in Loudoun County, Va., he in 1788, she in 1792. He died in 1859, she, May 7, 1883, at the age of ninety years and six months. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom are living. The oldest son is conductor on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and has been for over forty years. In the fall of 1840, part of the family moved to Bond County, Ill., and the remainder in 1841. Our subject was educated in Bond County. His occupation has most of his life been that of farming. September, 1864, he moved to Pulaski County, Ill., and settled on his present farm, then in the woods. His farm contains eighty acres all in cultivation. He gives his attention to fruit and vegetable growing. When first coming here, he engaged the lumber business, and continued in that for six years, doing considerable shipping. He was married November 20, 1854, to Margaret Phillips. She was born in Uniontown, Penn., to D. H. and Elizabeth Phillips, who moved to Bond County, Ill in 1852, the mother died there soon afterwards. The father died in Virginia, while on a visit there. Mr. and Mrs. Koonce have seven children, Eliza, L. H., Ida N., Dasie, Harry E., Allie E. and Elmer Jacob. Mr. Koonce is a member of the Patrons of Husbandry, and a greenback in politics.



Nicolas Koonce 1830-1906, Margaret A. (nee Phillips) Koonce 1831-1920 and their youngest son Elmer Koonce 1872-1937 at their home in Ploaski Co. IL abt 1900.

# KOONCE vs KOONCE

## A History of the Koonce Family in the American Civil War, 1861-1865

by David L. Koonce

The decision to enlist in an armed service, to fight the civil war, was not one to be taken lightly for the wives of the fighting men of the civil war. The years 1861-1865 had a far different meaning than learning marching, drill, weapons tactics, and how to mark time in the waits between battles their men did. In many respects, the men had it easy, the army provided their clothing, basic food needs, medical care and such other sundries as they may need.

The ladies were for the most part to provide their own care of clothing and food, run the family business if any, keep the farm going, and in most cases take care of the children of which there could be many. Certainly some help could come from the husband by his sending home a part of his pay, but a part of twenty one dollars a month was not likely to go far.

Of necessity this forced family groups to rely heavily on one another. In some cases, the wives and children were moved in with other relatives to form a larger family to ease the burden. In other families they were left at home with promises from family and friends to look in on them from time to time and assist them where needed. At the same time the women were expected to support the men in the field and many a package of new underwear, socks, gloves and overcoats were sent from home to the distant loved ones.

The actions described above occurred on both sides, north and south, thru out the war. All the while the ladies were left with the wonder, would a bullet or disease leave her a widow, possibly in debt, a house full of mouths to feed, no source of guaranteed income and a possible bleak future if not on good terms with her relatives.

Regardless of the above, the war did happen, enough men volunteered to go to insure there were armies on both sides, to guarantee there would be battles and death and disease and memories for men who survived to have parades and gala events after the war. The ladies as usual toiled on.

Bond County, Illinois is in the west central part of the state, just west of Vandalia and east of St. Louis, Missouri. It provided many of its sons for the Union cause of the civil war, including among them James Russell Koonce, born 4 Sep. 1829 in Bond Co. and died 28 Nov. 1896 who would serve 1864 and 1865 with the 26th Regt. Illinois Volunteers and his brother John Henry Koonce, born 1826 in Tennessee and died 27 Sep. 1862 in Evansville,



John Henry & Martha Ann (nee Pigg) Koonce

Indiana and who served in the 41st Regt. Illinois Volunteers. Both are the sons of George A. Koonce, born Dec. 1792 in North Carolina and died 02 Aug. 1863 in Bond Co. and Mary Houston Enloe, born 22 Feb. 1795 in York County, South Carolina, and died 14 Oct. 1851 in Bond Co.

James Russel Koonce, whose story was chronicled in issue 3 of the KOONCE to KOONCE Newsletter, left behind his 2nd wife Jane Stout and the children William Edward Koonce b. 1855, Alice Mary Koonce b. 1857, Albert G. Koonce b. 1845, Jesse J. Koonce b. 1861. Their last child, Martha Bell Koonce, was born after the war in 1869.

John Henry Koonce, who married Martha Ann Pigg in 1846 left behind George Washington Koonce born 1847, Mary Louiza Koonce born 1848, Elijah Jefferson Koonce born 1850, William N. Koonce born 1851, Elizabeth F. Koonce born 1853, John Henry Koonce jr. born 1855, James Russel Koonce born 1856, Cynthia Ann Koonce born 1858, Emma J. Koonce born 1861 and Nancy Isadora Koonce born 08 March 1862.

Martha Ann is the daughter of the Rev. Elijah Pigg born 30 June 1809 in Davidson Co., Tennessee, died 20 September 1899 in Mulberry Grove, Bond Co, Illinois and Louisa Hull Gardner born 06 June 1810, died 03 Dec. 1877 in Fayette Co. Illinois.

With the enlistment of her husband John Henry, Martha Ann was forced to rely on family, luckily the entire Pigg family was living in and around Bond County and with

her parents and nine other brothers and sisters and an apparent strong family link with James Russel and the Koonce family in Bond Co., John and Martha had after all named one son after James Russel, and James Russel himself did not leave home until nearly two years after his brothers death. Martha Ann at least had help and support.

In the absence of James Russel, after the loss of his brother, we can surmise that Bond County relatives also took care of Jane and her four children.

Life in Bond Co. in the war years still was not without its difficulty. The following notes are from records in the Greenville Advocate and printed during the war years. In the fall of 1861 the advertisements in local papers were pushing cures for "ague fever, intermittent fever, remittent fever, chill fever, dumb fever" which today would be more in line with a flu epidemic. There is another record of a large hail storm in april 1861 that damaged a number of crops then being planted. Still the war fever began to rage and with much pomp the first company of volunteers was organized from the county. In its first presentation there was an attempt to sing "Hail Columbia" but emotions of the ladies were too powerful for full control and the patriotic sentiments of the national anthem were uttered by a tearful eye rather than words.

Support for the war was growing and in the summer of 1861 ladies organizations in Bond Co. purchased and presented United States flags to the first two companies of volunteers to enlist and ten companies of home guards were called out to perfect their drill in preparation for service. But even then, with a fairly stable currency, prices did rise and the county took note of the suffering of its families. The June 3rd 1861 issue of the Greenville Advocate tells of a court order being issued "to supply the families of volunteers from Bond county all the necessaries for their comfort and subsistence through the absence in the service of their county of those upon whom these families are dependent for support." The article does not list any monetary awards or list the items needed, but its mere mention is significant in that court action was needed to correct a visible problem.

Crop problems continued in this rural farming area, the same paper reports that army worms have now destroyed all the meadows of

(Continued on page 9)



# Lindell Koonces' AUNT IDA

(Continued from page 3)

own children who had died so young. These children often came to her house to visit Grandma and Grandpa Koonce. In 1901 when her youngest child was only one year old, Ida's sister, Dasie, died leaving Andrew alone with the 3 small children so Aunt Ida added them to her home and family. Aunt Ida continued to provide a home for her aging parents, Nicholas & Margaret, until their deaths and served as a surrogate mother for her nieces and nephew until they grew to maturity.

In 1927 Aunt Ida's brother Elmer's wife died leaving him with two teenage children. Since her first adopted family was now grown, Aunt Ida moved in with her brother to maintain his home and help with raising his two young children. Ten years later when he died, we moved in and I got to know Aunt Ida.

Aunt Ida was a spry little woman always cheerful and alert up to her death at

78 years of age. I recall that she rested a lot in her special wicker rocker by the east window where she could see some of the yard where we played, all of the garden and even a glimpse of the road that ran in front of the house. Although she logged plenty of rocking chair time, she still cooked, cleaned, mended, gardened and bossed my nine year old sister and me. She was good at old fashioned foods. I especially liked her biscuits and what was officially known as Aunt Ida's Dumplings. Since she couldn't hear us we liked to call them Aunt Ida's Baseballs because they were round and almost as big as baseballs. Laced with grated onion and cooked in a rich chicken broth they were a treat we looked forward to with anticipation.

In the garden Aunt Ida's speciality was a row of mixed color sweet peas which she planted outside the window by her rocker. They were planted at exactly

the right time, tended lovingly, always beautiful, and admired by everyone.

Seeing how families and people get along today I wonder how some "family" matters were handled. It was a rural society where much of what was needed was grown, handmade or bartered but there was some need for money which was always in short supply. Was Aunt Ida ever paid for the services she provided her adopted families? Aunt Ida and her extended families survived all of this without electricity, indoor plumbing, automobiles, lawyers, or family counselors. There must have been many occasions when a lot of love and understanding was the only solution to parenting problems.

Aunt Ida lost her own children when they were very young but over a period of almost 40 years, there were always nieces and nephews in the home where she lived. It is no wonder that she was called AUNT IDA by almost everyone that knew her.

MURPHYSBORO -- Harry Ross Koonce, 92 died at 11:25 a.m. Sunday, November 12 1995, at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Illinois.

Services were held Wednesday November 15, 1995 at the First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale, Illinois. Burial was at Beechwood Cemetery in Mounds, Illinois following the service.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 310 S. University Ave., Carbondale, IL 62901 or the Heart Fund, in care of Mrs. Marian Schoen, 809 Twisdale, Carbondale.

Mr. Koonce, born and raised on a farm in Pulaski County, started to work on the Illinois Central Railroad at Mounds, Ill., in 1922 as a locomotive fireman. He stayed with the railroad until becoming a victim of the Great Depression in 1929. Until he was called back to work by the railroad in 1937, he supported his family by working as a laborer on highway construction, farming, operating a service station and selling cookware door to door.

In 1943, he was promoted to locomotive engineer, and the following year received his first appointment to a managerial position. In the succeeding 25 years he rose steadily through the ranks as fuel engineer, traveling engineer, trainmaster and superintendent. These assignments required that Harry and his wife, Leatha,

travel over most of the Illinois Central system, Making their home at various times at Mounds, Freeport, Blufford, Belleville and Homewood, Ill., as well as Louisville, Ky., and Waterloo, Iowa. They came to Carbondale in 1958, when he was named superintendent of the St. Louis division headquartered here. He retired in 1969 and remained in the area, having moved to a small farm where they enjoyed gardening and raising beef cattle.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Anaid Shrine of Belleville and the Carbondale Rotary Club, where he was made a Paul Harris fellow in 1994. In 1967, he was awarded the Silver Beaver by the Egyptian Council of the Boy Scouts of America for his work in scouting.

Born Oct. 5, 1903, at Villa Ridge, Ill., to Elmer and Lora Dell (Horrell) Koonce, he married Leatha Hitchcock on May 9, 1924. She died Dec. 13, 1988.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Lindell and Katie of Murphysboro; a daughter, Janice Baker of Fayetteville, NC.; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one brother, Elmer of Santa Barbara, Calif., and one sister, Marie Dickerson of Polo, Ill. In addition to his wife, his brothers, Clarence and Edward, a sister, Vera Lewis, and infant son and a grandson preceded him in death.



Harry Ross Koonce  
1903-1995

# Last will and Testament of John Koonce 1727-1791

This will, of John Koonce, was sent to me, John Koonce, by John Koonce, McAllen, TX. (See how things can get confused) I thank "TX John" for sending it as it is one of the most informative wills I have seen. It mentions all John's children by name. It mentions his wife by name and even some of his grandchildren by name. Also it mentions his slaves by name which will help in tracing some of the black Koonces of today. I have yet to locate a black family, with the name Koonce, that is interested in tracing their roots. If anybody knows of any please let me know.

In the name of God Amen

I, John Koonce, of the state of North Carolina & County of Jones, being weak in Body but of sound mind & memory knowing that it is appointed for man to die do think proper to make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following ??? & first of all I recommend my soul unto Almighty God that gave it and my body I committ to the dust from which it was taken in faith believing that I shall receive it again at the resurection of the just fashioned like unto Christs Glorious Body no more to see corruption all in & through the mediation and intercession of Jesus Christ the righteous.

And as for my worldly goods that it hath been pleased God to help me with I give, leave and bequeath in manner and from following ???

I give and bequeath to my son John Koonce ninety acres of land lying on Jacobs Locosin in Jones County to him and his heirs forever.

Item; I give and leave my negro man Buck to be sold and the money arising by such sale I give and leave to be equally divided between my sons George & John Koonce.

Item: I give to my son George one cross cut saw, one grind stone & my riding saddle.

I give to my son John one whip-saw, one new hanmill - I also give to my two sons George & John Koonce all my carpenters, cooper & shoemaker tools to be equally divided between them. I also give to my before names two sons my still with the tubbs and stilling uten-

sials after the death of their affectionate mother.

Item; I give to my grandson John Koonce the son of my son George my small shot gun.

Item; I give and bequeath to my two grandsons James & John Koonce the sons of my son John all my stock of cattle after the death of my wife Catron Koonce to be equally divided between them.

Item: I give and bequeath to my loving wife, Catron Koonce, one riding horse called Jack also one young mare called Jolly with all her future increase also all my silver & gold coin that I have laid up in store also all my stock of hogs and sheep, corn and salt provisions to her and her heirs forever.

Item; I give and bequeath to my daughters Rachel & Barbary one feather bed furniture and bedsted (each) two iron pots and one linnen wheel each.

Item; I lend to my loving wife, Catron Koonce, during her natural life one negro woman Nell and seven children wit; Frankey, Wyly, Cato, Sam, Cesar, Venus and little Nell. also all my household goods and furniture, feather beds and furniture not other wise mentioned in this will, also all my kitchen furniture, also utensials of husbandry of every kind, also all my crockery ware of every kind. I also lend to said wife my still with the utensils thereunto belonging during her life and also all my stock of cattle.

Item; I give and bequeath (at and

after the death of my loving wife Catron) to my five daug. namely, Ann Bender, Rachel Koonce, Lishey Brown, Catron Gilbert & Barbary Koonce the beforenamed negro woman, Nell and seven Children, Frankey, Wyly, Cato, Sam, Cesar, Venus and Little Nell, together with all their future increase to be equally divided to and amongst my aforesaid five daughters, but if any of my said daughters should die before their affectionate mother and leave issue, lawfully begotten, then my will is that such issue shall heir that part that the mother would, had she been living.

I also give to my afore named five daughters, after the death of their mother, all the household goods and furniture, feather bed and furniture, kitchen furniture crockery ware and utincials of husbandry that is lent in this will to my said wife to be equally divided amongst them in the same manner that the negro woman Nell and increase is directed to be divided to them and their heirs forever except the still and utensils for stilling and also my large family bible which said bible I give to my son George Koonce after the death of his mother.

And lastly I do nominate and appoint my son George Koonce and my trusty friend Nathan Bryan exectors to this my last will and testament here by revoking and making void all and every other will or wills heretofore made by me acknowledging, notifying and confirming this and this only on two sheats of paper.

John Koonce, Will - May 1791

## ??? QUERIES ???

*October 1995*

Any information on **Seth Koonce** listed as 4-6 years old on the 1850 Sumner Co. TN census. His parents were **Phillip and Elizabeth Koonce**. Their ages were in the early 20's. Ronnie Gibbs 101 Lynn Lee Drive, Old Hickory, TN 37138. E-Mail: "ronnie.gibbs@nashville.com"

*January 1995*

**Alfred KOONCE**, born 17 November 1906, is a grandson of **Samuel & Mary Koonce** and is the fourth of eighteen children born to **Francis Samuel Koonce**, 1861-1938 and **Matilda Ceiga**. What happened to the rest of that family?

When did Samuel & Mary bring their family to Indiana?

*July 1995*

**Philip Kuntz**, born in Germany and came to this country and settled in York Co., PA near Franklin & Carroll Townships. Died in 1815. had children: Michael, 1780-1880; Philip, 1781-1862; Jacob 1783-1802; Elizabeth; Mary; Rebecca; Susanna; John b. 1800-1879.

*July 1995*

Need any information on the family of **James E. Koonce**, b. abt 1866. m. Narcissa Scott. Sons name is **Usher David Koonce**, b. 4 Dec 1886, m. Mary Susan Raynor. Usher & Mary had a daughter named **Idell Koonce**, b. 9 June 1913, m. Harry Walso Dotson.

*July 1995*

Where can I buy the following books? DeGraffenreid's book; Jones Co. NC History and Genealogy, by J. P. Harriet. *Editor*

## OBITUARIES

### **MATTIE L. BIGONY 1905-1995**

MATTIE L., formerly of Klondike, Texas passed away July 1, 1995 in Dallas, TX. She was preceded in death by Douglas A. Bigony in 1986, her half-brother, Tolbert Koonce in 1991, her brothers Edwin Koonce in 1987 & Homer Koonce in 1972. Born in Freestone County, TX on February 12, 1905 to Augustus (Gus) Staples Koonce and Laura (nee Vaughn) Koonce. Mattie was the granddaughter of George Washington Koonce, of Haywood Co. TN. She attended Antioch schools in Freestone County and East Texas College. She was a longtime employee at the U.S. Post office in Klondike, Texas. Survivors include: son and daughter-in-law, John F. and Delores Bigony of Arlington, Texas; and two grandchildren, Cecile Bigony of Dallas, Michael and Joan McDonald, of Arlington. Interment will be at Waco Memorial Cemetery in Waco, Texas. Donations can be made to the charity of your choice.

### **LORA K. RYAN 1894-1995**

LORA K. of Dallas, passed away August 23, 1995. Preceded in death by her husband, Dr. H.G. Ryan, a member of the North Texas and Oklahoma Conferences on the United Methodist Church. She was born January 5, 1894 in Oakwood, TX, graduated in 1914 from Sam Houston Normal Institute in Huntsville. She then pursued her career as a teacher in the elementary grades, and later in speech which was her major. After she married, she turned her talents to the educational programs of the Methodist Church and the community. Her primary devotion was, however, to that of a loyal help-mate and loving mother. The world is better that she lived. Recently preceded in death by step-sons, N.W. Ryan & T.M. Ryan. Survived by daughter, Margaret Ryan-Harkey; daughter-in-law, Birdie & Elsie Ryan; grandchildren, Charles Ryan Harkey, Larry Ryan, Jean Kolich, Lora Rochelle, Ralph Ryan & their families. Interment Restland Memorial Park.

(see related article on Page 10; April 1994 KOONCE to KOONCE)

(Received from Gene Koonce, Portland OR. Nov. 21, 1994. Dated 10/6/1946.)

### **A. J. KOONCE 1859-1946**

Funeral services for A. J. Koonce, 87, former resident of this community, were held at the Baptist church here Tuesday afternoon at 2:30. Rev. E. R. Wall, the pastor, officiating, Interment was at Graceland.

A. J. Koonce, son of George Small and Nancy Akin Hayes Koonce, was born near Mt. Vernon, Ind., January 8, 1859, and passed away at Carbondale October 6, 1946, after an illness of four months. At the age of 21 he moved to Illinois near Crossville. In 1905, he moved to a farm near Albion and for the last three years he has lived in Carbondale to be near his son.

He united with the Baptist church at Shortville in White county in 1902, and at his death was the oldest member of that congregation.

On Oct. 31, 1880, he was married to Margaret Adeline Casebier and to this union seven children were born. Five children preceded him in death, and his companion of more than sixty four years passed on Aug. 1, 1945.

Surviving are two sons, Robert Koonce, Carbondale, and Alvin J. Koonce, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; eight grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and a host of friends who mourn his passing.

# LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF GEORGE WILLIAM KOONCE 1870-1956.

*(From the Bond County ILCourthouse. There is no date on it.)*

I, George W. Koonce of Greenville, in the County of Bond and State of Illinois, being of sound mind and memory, and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life, do therefore make, ordain, publish and declare, this to be my last WILL and TESTAMENT:

FIRST, I order and direct that my Executor hereinafter named pay all my just debts and funeral expenses as soon after my decease as conveniently may be.

SECOND, After the payment of such funeral expenses and debts, I give, devise and bequeath to the Greenville Montrose Abbey the sum of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) to be used for its upkeep and maintenance,

THIRD: All the rest, residue and remainder of my property, real, personal and mixed, of every name and nature, whether owned by me now or acquired by me hereafter and to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, I give, devise and bequeath to my son, Arthur H. Koonce, the one-third part thereof; to my nephew, Ralph Koonce and Mary Koonce, his wife, or their survivor, the one-third part thereof; and to my foster-daughter, Louise Koonce Belt, the one-third thereof.

Ralph Koonce Greenville, Illinois      Mary Koonce Greenville, Illinois  
Arthur H. Koonce 4003 Oglethorpe Street, Hyattsville, MD  
Louise Belt Koonce 1462 Morton Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.



ANTHONY KOONCE

Navy Seaman Anthony M. Koonce, son of Michael L. and Janet D. Koonce of Vandalia, Illinois recently completed United States Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

During the eight-week program. Koonce completed a variety of training which included classroom study, practical hands-on instruction, and an emphasis on physical fitness. In particular, Koonce learned naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and a variety of safety skills required for working around ships and aircraft.

Koonce and other recruits received instruction on the Navy's core values - honor, courage and commitment; and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Men and women train together from their first day in the Navy just as they do aboard ships to reinforce the team concept. Koonce and other recruits also were trained in preventing sexual harassment and ensuring equal opportunity.

Even as the naval service gets smaller over the next few years, highly motivated young people like Anthony Koonce, are still finding an opportunity to improve their knowledge and education as they become part of the most highly technical naval force in history. The year alone the Navy will have more than 57,000 job openings and opportunities, most of which include guaranteed training.

Koonce is a 1995 graduate of Vandalia, Illinois Community High School.

## NEW MEMBERS *(Includes e-mail address if applicable)*

### Total as of this writing 109

**Bigony, John F.**  
2609 Riveroaks Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006-3639

**Fountain, Mamie & N. D.**  
4926 Hwy 7 West  
Nacogdoches, TX 75964

**Hardison, Claude & Helen**  
3510 Woodland Dr. N.W.  
Cleveland, TN 37312

**Koenig, Allen & Carolyn**  
6909 Knotty Pine Dr.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8639

**Koonce, Bob Eugene**  
Box 163  
Gibson City, IL 60936

**Koonce, Gerald A.**  
27 Coolwood  
Little Rock, AR 72202-2117

**Koonce, Richard J. & Christine**  
536 Coston Rd.  
Richlands, NC 28574-7146

**Koonce, Robert Barton**  
Rt. 1 Box 126  
Taft, TX 78390

**Koonce, Shelly J.**  
1616 Ross Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55106

**Shepley, Dorinda L.**  
10559 Highland School Rd.  
Myersville, MD 21773-8732  
NLPQ56A@prodigy.com



# KOONCE vs KOONCE, in the Civil War

(continued from page 4)

Bond county and had made vigorous attacks on wheat, corn and oats. Hay was also reported scarce. The ladies and kids tightened their belts and continued to support the war effort.

In the midst of all this the first listed war refugee entered Bond county. The Greenville Advocate again reports yet another family of Koonce's to feed. George Koonce and family of Harpers Ferry, Virginia had arrived to live with his father Nicholas Koonce. The Advocate report: "Last spring on account of his strong union proclivities George Koonce was forced to leave Harpers Ferry and came to Greenville and his wife and children arrived last Saturday night. Mr. Koonce had gone to Harpers Ferry after it was evacuated by the rebels. The rebels had a particular spite against him. Mr. Koonce tendered his services to the Union Forces and was made first lieutenant in an Independent Military Company. While on outpost duty at Harpers Ferry he gave warning to the Federal garrison of the approach of rebel forces and the destruction of the armory at Harpers Ferry was accomplished prior to its capture by confederate forces. This enraged the confederates and they searched for him. Mr. Koonce swore they would hang him if caught. By the destruction

the armory at Harpers Ferry Mr. Koonce sustained a heavy loss. He owned town property and notes on citizens to the amount of \$10,000.00. All of which had been rendered valueless. He was a brother of Jacob Koonce, a former sheriff of Bond County, now deceased, and Lieutenant Joseph Lewis Koonce, father of J. Wallace Koonce of this city."

The casualties of war were now beginning to be noticed also. Again the ladies on the home front came thru. They made bedgowns, blankets, underwear, small hair and feather pillows, cushions, knit woolen socks, slippers, bandages and lint. All of which was given to the military for use by the wounded of the western

armies. The ladies of Bond Co. continued to work and sent to the 3rd Illinois Cavalry a "fine" supply of pin cushions.

With the reports of each battle the local newspapers reported what happened as soon as they could. In most of the papers would be printed letters from the men at the front. They would either tell the stories of camp life, or life in a skirmish, often relate indirectly the goings on of their friends. The papers also presented the casualty lists, often incomplete or taking several issues to fully put together, as news came in fragments. The reaction was usually the same. When printed, the paper would be distributed and copies posted at set locations for people to read. This caused a stir among the populace with the paper reporting after the battle of Shiloh "During the past few days the people of Greenville have been running hither and thither to ascertain the fate of the husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and friends." Such was the stress of living at home.

War can be a very unhappy event in the lives of peace loving people anywhere. By using information from Bond county, Illinois and the Koonce family there I have tried to give an idea of what life was like in rural America at that time. Understand also the depiction here of a years events would continue with minor variations for the duration

of the conflict. The tragedy of family separation can be very trying. It forces those at home to be resourceful in their lives just as the soldier at the front must be resourceful in his attempts to win and come home. Of the two brothers I chose here. James Russel did come home to his wife, eventually married a third time before his passing and suffered from arthritis for the rest of his life, because of the war. His brother, John Henry, (to be profiled in an upcoming article) did not survive the war and dies in a Federal hospital in Evansville, Indiana and he is buried there. John's estate totaled \$215.95. With this and the \$8.00 per month, which was later raised to \$12.00, Martha raised her family, back in Bond County, until her death in 1899. I do not know if John Henry was able to see his last child before passing. This daughter Nancy Isadora, was born in March, 1862, John Henry died in September.

For those interested in the full story of George Koonce (mentioned in this article) and the burning of the Harpers Ferry Arsenal please refer to the profile on him in the January 1995 KOONCE to KOONCE Newsletter. In a final note, the burning of the arsenal caused the destruction of some 15,000 stand of arms which would have fallen into confederate hands had it not been done. Since George was responsible, it is small wonder the confederates wanted to hang him and certainly good cause to move his family out to Illinois for reasons of safety.

The above article relates primarily to home front life for those on the Federal side of the conflict. Life for the home front people on the Confederate side was equally harsh and lonely. The big difference being the south had much less to work with. With an unstable currency rampant inflation took hold and confederate money became worthless. Thus any sent home by a husband was so devalued it could buy little. Basics were at first brought in to the confederate ports but as the blockade tightened and things wore out, it was found they could not easily be replaced. Simple things like coffee became a luxury and sugar or potatoes, when found in the market, could cost up to 25 dollars a measure. Medicines for the home became scarce. Improvisation became the order of the day. If it were not for the "country upbringing" of many and the home remedies they produced many would have perished. By the end of the war, food in southern homes became simple. Whatever could be grown was eaten, storage of potatoes and onions and a small amount of smoked or cured meats was all that was available to get thru the winter months. It was tough, but even here the Koonce family, like others, pitched in and helped each other and survived. Waiting for the better times those on both sides were sure would come.



This tomb stone of James Russel Koonce is in the Mulberry Grove, IL Cemetery.

Printed in the "ADVANTAGE PRESS"  
Wed, March 9, 1994.

From Alice Koonce, Refugio, TX.

## KOONCE VAULTS TO GOLD

Miles Koonce vaulted 15' 6" to win the gold medal in the pole vault at the Carl Lewis Relays held at the University of Houston campus Friday, March 4. This is currently one of the top vaults among high schoolers in the state of TX. Miles cleared 13' 6", 14' 6" and 15' 6" without any misses. The gold medal was presented to Miles by Carol Lewis, former Olympic star and sister of Carl Lewis.

# FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR NICHOLAS N. KOONCE

HUSBAND Nicholas N. KOONCE Jr.-330

BORN: 24 Oct 1830 PLACE: Harpers Ferry, Loudoun Co., VA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 7 Mar 1906 PLACE: Villa Ridge, Pulaski Co., IL  
 BUR.: PLACE: Villa Ridge Cem., Pulaski Co., IL  
 MARR: 21 Nov 1854 PLACE:  
 FATHER: Nicholas KOONCE Sr.-304  
 MOTHER: Elizabeth SHRIVER-1625

PARENTS' MRIN: 288

WIFE Margaret Ann PHILLIPS-1665

BORN: 18 Apr 1831 PLACE: Uniontown, Fayette Co., PA  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 6 Aug 1920 PLACE: Villa Ridge, Pulaski Co., IL  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 FATHER:  
 MOTHER:

## CHILDREN

1. NAME: Lila KOONCE-1658

---- BORN: 20 Nov 1855 PLACE: ,Bond Co., IL  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 10 Jan 1934 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: George KELLY-1671  
 MARR: 21 Oct 1874 PLACE:

5. NAME: Harry Elmwood KOONCE-1662

---- BORN: 24 Mar 1865 PLACE: ,Pulaski Co., IL  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 9 Dec 1902 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Florence BUCKLES-1675  
 MARR: 1898 PLACE:

2. NAME: Lewis H. KOONCE-1659

---- BORN: 5 Jan 1858 PLACE: ,Bond Co., IL  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 3 May 1925 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Myra MILLER-1672  
 MARR: 12 Oct 1880 PLACE:

6. NAME: Alice E. "Allie" KOONCE-1663

---- BORN: 21 Jan 1870 PLACE: ,Pulaski Co., IL  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 1965 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Tower THOMASSON Sr.-1676  
 MARR: 27 Sep 1893 PLACE:

3. NAME: Ida Marie KOONCE-1660

---- BORN: 8 Mar 1861 PLACE: ,Bond Co., IL  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 17 Jun 1938 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE: Villa Ridge Cem., Pulaski  
 SPOUSE: Maris L. HELMAN-1673  
 MARR: 22 Jun 1887 PLACE:

7. NAME: Elmer Jacob KOONCE-1664

---- BORN: 24 Mar 1872 PLACE: Villa Ridge, Pulaski Co., IL  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 23 Feb 1937 PLACE: Villa Ridge, Pulaski Co., IL  
 BUR.: PLACE: Mounds, Pulaaski Co., IL  
 SPOUSE: Lora Dell HORRELL-1677  
 MARR: 2 Nov 1900 PLACE:

4. NAME: Dasie "Daisy" KOONCE-1661

---- BORN: 31 Mar 1863 PLACE: ,Bond Co., IL  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 6 Oct 1901 PLACE: ,Pulaski Co., IL  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Andrew M. HELMAN-1674  
 MARR: 19 Nov 1890 PLACE:

MRIN: 320

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# Last Will and Testament of George Koonce 1704-1774

NORTH CAROLINA  
CRAVEN COUNTY

IN THE NAME OF GOD,  
AMEN. I, George Koonce of the  
County aforesaid, being very sick  
and weak in body but blessed be  
God of sound mind and memory, do  
make and ordain this my last will  
and testament in manner and form  
following.

**IMPRIMIS.** My will and desire  
first of all is that after my decease  
my body be buried in a Christian like  
decent manner, and form at the dis-  
cretion of my executors hereafter to  
be named, and as to the worldly  
goods which it hath pleased God to  
bestow on me, I doe dispose of

them as follows --

**IMPRIMIS.** I give and leave  
to my son Christian Koonce one  
feather bed, and furniture to him  
and his heirs forever.

**Item.** I give and leave to my son  
Daniel Koonce, to him and his  
heirs forever one feather bed and  
furniture,

**Item.** I also give to my beloved  
wife, Mary Koonce, all my other  
real and personal estate during the  
time she continues my widow or  
lives unmarried and after her mar-  
riage or decease to be equally di-  
vided between my two sons Chris-  
tian and Daniel Koonce, and I doe  
hereby nominate and appoint my  
sons Michael Koonce and Chris-

tian Koonce my whole and sole ex-  
ecutors of this my last will and testa-  
ment.

In testimony whereof I have  
hereunto set my hand and affixed  
my seal, this first day of May in the  
year of our Lord 1772.

George Koonce (his X mark)

Signed, sealed and published in the  
presence of : Wm. Lavender; Jacob  
Koonce, jur. Martha (her X mark)  
Koonce.

*(Ed. Note: I find it interesting to note  
that a wealthy man who was educated  
in the home of attorney Jacob Miller  
would sign his will with only his mark  
and not a signature.)*



# KOONCE to KOONCE

April 1996

Official Publication of the Koonce Genealogical Society

Volume 3 Issue 2

## 1850 LETTERS FROM DAVID KOONCE

The following two letters were written in 1850 by David Koonce in Cumberland MD to one of his younger brothers, Christopher H. Koonce, in Greenville, Bond County, IL. The original, handwritten letters are in the possession of Carolyn Koonce Koenig of Chapel Hill, NC from whom permission was obtained for their publication in this newsletter. Carolyn is a great-granddaughter of Christopher H. Koonce. The letters were transcribed by Thomas E. Palmer and in the transcription, every effort was made to retain the original wording, spelling (and misspelling), sentence structure, and omission of punctuation. Words that were unreadable or difficult to read are indicated by underlining.

To Christopher H. Koonce Greenville  
Bond County Illinois

Cumberland Tuesday July 16th 1850

Dear Brother

I received your letter dated the 6th Inst yesterday morning at nine oClock It give me great pleasure to read your long & interesting letter it contained a large amount of news & the best of the news was that you was all well My health is good though I am confined to my bed & have been since the first day of July on that day between 12 & 1 oClock I broke my left leg between the Nee & Ankle only one bone the larger one at Rockwells Run 39 miles from Cumberland, my leg & foot has been fixed up in a new machine not boards boxed up the old fashind way, & swong up with a rope from the ceiling & lets my heel about 3 inches above the

bed, by that means I could always move myself about on the bed but could not lay on either side allways have to lay on my back or set up in the bed & have a chair behind me with Bolsters & Pillow to lean against & when I write I have a stand by the side of my bed, it never give me much pain & does not appear to be the least sore at this time it is still in the swing & my Doctor says that he thinks he will take it out of the swing the

p.2

last of this week, the next day after my leg was broke I wrote to John at Harpers Ferry & the agent give him a free pass & he came up to see me on saturday the 6th the same day you wrote your letter to me & went back on Sunday the 7th & all the folks was well at Harpers ferry at that time I have not heard from them since but have wrote two letters down to let them know how I was getting a long, I hope these few lines may find you all enjoying good health, it has been warm & dry here for some time it had not rained any for several days before I broke my leg & did not rain untill last Sunday the 14th Inst, then it rained nearly all day Sunday, Sunday night & Monday untill two oClock in the afternoon

The way I broke my leg is as follows I was on the Engine it was standing still at the water Station I went to get off stepped out on the side rod with my left foot & as I stepped out with my right foot my left foot sliped & caught between the side rod & frame of the Engine & I fell head foremost towards the grood & my whole weight & the force of

the fall came on my left leg where it was fast between the side rod & frame of the Engine, please tell Mother not to be uneasy about my leg as it will be well in a short time & give my love to all

p.3

you say you would like to get a job on the Rail Road if you was here I could get you work on the Rail Road & if you was to come I could get you work on the Road but perhaps you would have to wait 1, 2 or 3 weeks after you arrived & it might happen so that you would go to work in a day or two after you arrived but I will not advise you to come nor to stay away for if I was to advise you to come & you should happen to get Killed or crippled on the Rail Road perhaps I would be blamed for it so I will give you a short history of Rail Roding & the names of all hands that have been killed or crippled on the Baltimore & O RRoad since I have been on the road all that I can recollect, A man by the name of Davis Conductor on tonage train a coupling broke when he was standing between two cars coming down the Planes the cars pulled a part & he fell down in between & the cars that was behind run over him he layed in between the tracks & his left arm got on the track & mashed all up & it was cut off close up to his shoulder he got well, a fireman got killed by the Engine running off the track & run down a bank & upsett & caught the fireman under the tender I have forgot his name but we use to call him Chub a nick name

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and last winter William Black a conduc-

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## EDITORS CORNER

by John Paul Koonce



The end of the coldest winter I can remember is coming and a long awaited Texas Trip is going to start on March 23rd. Hopefully I will have a chance to meet, in person, many of the members of the Koonce Genealogical Society that I have only met through the mail and by phone. Also I plan to meet other friends and relatives along the way. My wife, Nancy, will fly down and meet me in Harlingen, TX on the 29th. We plan to spend a couple of days roaming around and visiting more friends & relatives in the Lower Rio Grande Valley before heading back home by way of the beautiful Arkansas Ozarks Mountains.

On pages 6 & 8 of this issue is information on a Koonce Research Meeting to be held in Nashville, TN this year. Anybody that is doing research on a Koonce line is welcomed and encouraged to attend this meeting. It may save you much time and money by not duplicating research that has already been done. In any event we plan to have a lot of fun. There are already about 10 people that have shown an interest in this meeting.

We still need pictures and stories of you and/or your Koonce ancestors to keep

(Continued on page 9)

### Koonce Genealogical Society Newsletter KOONCE to KOONCE

is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. No attempt has been or will be made to verify the authenticity of any articles that are printed in this publication. It is intended to share information only. Send all inquiries to KOONCE to KOONCE, 1821 37th St. Somerset, WI 54025.

Subscription Rate      \$15.00 Year  
Back issues              \$ 5.00 Each

(Additional contributions accepted)

Mail Check or Money Order to: KGS 1821 37th St.  
Somerset, WI 54025

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## David Koonce letters Cont.

tor got killed at Duffields Depot 6 miles above harpers ferry & last winter George Flinn a conductor fell in between the cars going up the North Mountain & had his left arm mashed all up I was on the next train behind we put in my way car & took him to Martinsburg & his arm was cut off close to his shoulder he got well & is now teaching school at Bath, John Pownell conductor last winter at Martinsburg got knocked down by a train & one car run over his right anke & mashed it up very badly but it was not cut off he has a wife & lives in Cumberland on the same street that I board in & only 5 or 6 houses from my boarding house he is still confined to his bed several pieces of bones came out of his leg it is doubtfull whether his foot will be of any use to him or not & his Doctor says that he thinks he will have him up out of bed in a week or two, George Burall conductor was killed dead at Pattersonson Creek 8 miles from Cumberland about 2 months back four cars run over him, A.W. Bosworth Way conductor got his left hand caught between 2 cars in Cumberland last winter when he was coupling them together the Doctor saved his hand but it looks bad & is weak he is at work again, a man named Wallace conductor got booth his legs caught & mashed between two cars near Harpers Ferry last winter he got well & both legs was saved but one of his nees is very stiff

& he walks badly he is now writing in Rail Road office in Cumberland

p.5

Dutch Jake who kept the Bridge at Harpers Ferry & worked at the Depot he was caught between two cars & killed I think it was last fall or summer a man named Walker who was Watchman at the Engine house in Cumberland got killed in the yard in Cumberland John Pool a Engineer got kill by running into a train that was a head of him & had stoped it was about 18 or 20 months back, Edward Whitter a young man conductor went to put down a wheel Brake tight near Davis Warehouse the other side of the Point of Rocks & the chain broke & he fell off the car & against the Platform at Davis's Warehouse broke his back & cut & bruised him nearly all over it was the first part of this month two or three days after I got my leg broke he lived 5 or 6 days & died he suffered 40 Deaths before he died, then agreat many mashed fingers & toes & little tight squeezes &c. &c. & perhaps some others got killed & crippled that I do not recollect at present

I will now give you a little history of the hardships that you would have to go through, first I will give you a list of prices viz. fireman 33\$ per month, conductor with large trains 35\$ conductor with small train 30\$ Second. Brakeman on the

(Continued on page 3)

Give a gift subscription of KOONCE to KOONCE to a relative. It is a gift that will be treasured for a lifetime and beyound.

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**Koonce Genealogical Society (KGS)**  
1821 37th St.  
Somerset, WI 54025

# David Koonce letters Continued

(Continued from page 2)

p.6

large trains 25\$ Way conductors 50\$ Brakesman on the way train or day assistant Way conductor 30\$ Engineers that run large Engines gets \$2.50cts per day & Engineers that run small Engines gets \$2.00 per day, all the conductors Brakesman & fireman if they loose a half a day or 1 day or more in a month they are check & only paid for the number of day they work, The trains do not stop for rain nor snow until the snow gets so deep that they can not get through it & then there are compelled to stop where ever they be on the road & run night & day & some dark rainy nights you can not see one inch from your nose unless you hold up a Lantern, The tonage & Coal trains start from Cumberland in the morning at 8 oClock & arrive at Martinsburg at fifteen minutes past five in the afternoon, draw there fires & put in new fires & get there suppers & start from Martinsburg at 35 minutes past 6 oClock same evening then go on to Baltimore and arrive in Baltimore the next morning at 40 minutes past 6 oClock, then lay by & rest that day & night & the next morning start from Baltimore at half past 4 oClock & arrive at Martinsburg

p.7

at half past five in the evening lay over at Martinsburg that night & start the next morning at 5 minutes past five oClock for Cumberland & arrive in Cumberland at 5 minutes past 2 oClock in the afternoon then stay in Cumberland till the morning at 8 oClock as will at the common t, from Cumberland to Martinsburg or from Martinsburg to Cumberland is a days work, & from Martinsburg to Baltimore or from Baltimore to Martinsburg is a days work & every third trip that you go to Baltimore it will be your turn to lay over the day you arrive in Baltimore & the night & the next day untill half past 4 oClock in the afternoon then you will start for Martinsburg, you will then arrive at Martinsburg the next morning at 15 minutes before 4 oClock draw fire & get Breakfast & start for Cumberland at 5 minutes past 5 oClock & arrive in Cumberland at 5 minutes past 2 oClock in the afternoon then stay there till the

next morning at 8 oClock, you must bear in mind that of mornings it is one hour from the time the fire is put in the Engine till she will have steam enough to get her out of the house & then from half to an hour

p.8

to regulate & couple up your train to get read to start, there is stock trains running between Cumberland & Martinsburg that run all together at night viz. they start from Cumberland at six oClock in the evening & arrive at Martinsburg at 20 minutes before 4 oClock the next morning & there lay by that day at Martinsburg & the next night start from Martinsburg for Cumberland at 15 minutes before 11 oClock & arrive in Cumberland next morning at 6 oClock then stay in Cumberland that evening at 6 oClock & then start as before said

There is stock trains running between Martinsburg & Baltimore as follows fast line start from Baltimore at 2 oClock in the afternoon & arrive at Martinsburg at 10 oClock that night & lay by the balance of the night at Martinsburg & start back for Baltimore at 5 oClock the next morning & arrive in Baltimore at one oClock in the afternoon, the way trains do not run any of nights unless in case of Brake downs & are kept out then run on to get through, I am Way conductor before I was Way conductor I had to run of nights you can read the history of Rail Roding on the Baltimore & Ohio Rail & see how you like it, I copyed your letter off yesterday & sent it to John to day & I will get a letter from him one day this week & then I will give you some more news, I think if you would read the History of Rail Roding to your intended Partner she would not give her consent for you to come; give my love & respects to all I will write in a few days again I still remain your affectionate Brother

D. Koonce

## SECOND LETTER

Cumberland Wed. August 21st 1850  
Dear Brother

I recieved your kind letter of the 10th Inst. on monday last the 19th

Inst. was verry glad to hear that you was all well and hope these few lines may find you all enjoying good health,

I am well at present and my leg is still improving verry fast though I am compelled to use the crutches yet I can nearly bear my entire weight on my leg before I can feel it affected any and think that in a few days I will be able to walk without the crutches; I have not been to Harpers Ferry yet on account of the cholera abrak-ing out there every three or 4 days Brother John writes to me every few days and gives me the news and the names of the deaths by cholera and I would give you the names but suppose you recieve the Free Press and it will give you all the names; in your letter you say I give you a long list of accidents that happened on the rail road and said you thought that I did not want you to come and work on the rail road; in answer I cannot say that I did not want you to come but thought that you could do as well by staying in Illinois as you only wanted to work about two years on the rail road and as I know that the first 12 months on the rail road of a new hand is the hardest kind of a life the way the trains are running now & you intended to stay just long enough to be able get along easy and comfortable & leave just at the time

p.2

that you ought to able to get two or two & a half Dollars per day; therefore I pointed out what I thought could be done in Illinois; and I also stated that if you come I would get you work on the road, and I also give a full history of the working of the road & what you would have to go through and a list of prices or wages for the different kinds of work done on the road & left it to your own choice either to come or to stay; and some new hands that now days come to work on the road do not stay over one week; If you had written to me that you wanted work on the rail road & had no limit to the time then in that case I would have advised you to come & advised you to went of firing for in 18 or 24th you would be able to run an Engine & then you would get 2 or \$2.50 per day. I have copyed off a piece on Marriage taken from Proverbial Philosophy by Mar-

(Continued on page 7)

# KOONCE vs KOONCE

## A History of the Koonce Family in the American Civil War, 1861-1865

by David L. Koonce



The following article is submitted by fellow enthusiast of civil war and genealogy and Koonce family member Mr. Tim Lohrstorfer of Indianapolis, Indiana. I found it very interesting and informative. I believe you will also.

John Henry Koonce fought with the Forty First Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. A son of the South, he was born in Williamson County, Tennessee to George Koonce and Mary Houston Enloe in 1826. In 1829 his parents sold their property in Williamson County, including a negro woman slave and moved to Bond County, Illinois. John's parents could have hardly imagined the issue of slavery would call their son back to Tennessee 33 years later and claim his life. In the process, John would take up arms against his cousins who remained in the south and they would meet on the battlefields of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. The disease spawned at Shiloh would eventually claim John's life as it did so many other Americans in this most climatic of conflicts.

After the Union defeat at the Battle of Bull Run, President Abraham Lincoln called for more volunteers. Heeding this call, John left Amity in Bond County, enlisted in the Forty first Illinois Infantry. In doing so he left his wife, Martha Pigg Koonce and their ten children. He also left behind a successful blacksmith trade which he operated with his father. John was listed as present on the regimental muster rolls from August 1861 thru April 1862. This places him at the battles of Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing, also known as the battle of Shiloh.

The 41st Illinois, which came to be known as "The Fighting Forty First", was formed in Decatur, Ill. by Colonel Issac Pugh in July and August 1861. John mustered into its Company D. On August 9th, 1861. The regiment left for St. Louis, Missouri, then went by boat to the union facilities at Birds Point opposite Cairo, Ill.

They did not get to stay long, on September 4th, now in a brigade with un-

der E. A. Paine with fellow Illinois regiments the 9th, 12th, and 40 Illinois, they occupied Paducah, Ky. On Nov. 6th they moved again to Columbus and Melvin, Ky. This green regiment received criticism for its marching ability and habits during this last march. They were accused of severe straggling, creating the appearance of a "mere armed mob" and some members were even accused of stealing the property of and robbing the local citizens.

Now under the overall command of Gen. U. S. Grant, the regiment went by steamer on February 5th, 1862 to participate in the plan to cut Tennessee in half and attack the confederate Fort Henry in conjunction with a gunboat fleet under Admiral Foote. Due to withdrawal by confederate forces the 41st saw no direct action at Ft. Henry but from its position in older confederate works was able to witness the bombardment by Admiral Foote's fleet and saw the fort surrender.

Flushed with easy victory at Ft. Henry, on February 11th, Grants troops, including the 41st, began their march across the peninsula to Fort Donelson. The march began with high spirits and was marked by unseasonably warm weather, causing many of the soldiers to cast aside their blankets and overcoats. On the 13th of February with nearly 15,000 troops almost encircling Fort Donelson the weather changed and freezing rain and sleet began pelting the troops now lacking the equipment to stay warm. The situation was made worse when fearing detection by confederates, the army was ordered not to build fires. On the 14th, after the defeat of the federal gunboats attacking the fort, reality set in. Hearing confederates in Fort Donelson cheering the defeat of the gunboats, union jubilation turned to silence. The troops knew if the fort were to be taken, they would have to do it.

On the morning of the 15th, the 41st was positioned south and east of the

town of Dover along the Wynns Ferry Rd. The brigade now consists of the 9th, 12th and 41st Illinois. Victor Hicken in his book "Illinois in the Civil War" states "this brigade, consisting of three tough Illinois regiments, was a most fortunate choice. Beyond these, however, there were still no reserves, nothing to seal a break in the Union line, if such a development should occur." Confederate forces then under General Pillow did attempt to break out of the siege. The main thrust of the attack came just on the flank of the 41st and its brigade now under command of Colonel John McArthur. The attack began 5:45am and drove a hole in the union line. McArthurs brigade came to aid of their friends and was "hotly engaged". After hard fighting, the confederate forces succeeded in pushing back the union line and opening an escape route. However, General Pillow, at the moment of success ordered the confederate attack to stop and had his forces return to their lines. The hole was plugged by troops of General Lew Wallace of Indiana. The next day, 16 February, Grant sent his famous line, "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon you works", in response to surrender terms from the trapped confederates. In response, Ft. Donelson surrendered, twelve to fifteen thousand rebel troops were captured. Among them, James M. Koonce, Hiram Koonce of Company D, 41st Tennessee and John J. Koonce and William W. Koonce of Company K of the 41st Tennessee infantry. (For another version of this battle, see *Koonce to Koonce*, vol. 1, Issue 4, October 1994).

In this, its first major engagement, the 41st suffered 200 killed and wounded, and suffered intensely from lack of food, lying in snow and rain without shelter and temperatures that hovered at 12 degrees.

With the loss of Tennessee, confederate forces began concentrating in and

(Continued on page 9)



# ELIZABETH CHAPPELL CATCHES THE PRIZE WINNING CATFISH

This story comes from Raymond E. Koonce, Fort Walton Beach, FL. Ray's own fish story, with his 17 lb. Yellow Fin Tuna, is on page 3 of the July 1994 **KOONCE to KOONCE**.

The article I am enclosing is about my brother Don Koonce's (deceased) five year old granddaughter, Elizabeth Ashlyn Chappell. As you can see from the picture, she caught quite a few other fish, also. Two weeks later we spent a Saturday in Freeport, FL on the Alaquia River having a fish fry/outing and Elizabeth topped the day again. While everyone else was having lunch, Elizabeth and her younger sister, Samantha Ann, decided they wanted to go fishing. After her mother, Donna, and I had finished lunch we took a walk down to the dock. While we were down there Samantha came and asked for a worm and casually said that Elizabeth had a fish on. Everyone went over to where they were. Her pole was bent almost double. Her dad, Rick Chappell, asked everyone to stand back and let her do everything by herself. It was a 36 inch Alligator Gar. She hooked it and landed it by herself.

Samantha doesn't do bad herself, I took her out one afternoon last fall and she caught 7 Bream (Blue Gill) and I didn't catch anything.

You can see that their father has taught

them well. The youngest daughter, Lindsey Marie, hasn't done much fishing yet, but it won't be long before she will be doing as well as her sisters.

The most recent fishing episode was at the 1995 Fort Walton Beach Kiwanis Club's Small Fry Fishing Rodeo on Okaloosa Island, where over 150 young anglers participated. Winners won trophies and Zebco rod-n-reel combos. Elizabeth, who is in kindergarten at Ocean City Elementary School, caught the largest fish of the day, a 7-pound, 2-ounce catfish to top the junior division.

Just before the siren sounded at 11 a.m. to signal the end of fishing, Elizabeth hooked up with the big catfish, while fishing with a worm on a float.

"I was in the water when the siren went off," said her dad, who waded out to pull the big cat onto the bank.

Elizabeth's reaction? She blushed and shook her right hand. Her mom said her was tired from reeling in the big fish.

*Send your favorite outdoor sport story and pictures to Robert J. Koonce, 2938 Hamlet Avenue N., Oakdale, MN 55128-4000*



Elizabeth Ashlyn Chappell with her prize winning 7-pound, 2-ounce catfish. Caught off Okaloosa Island, FL.

**KOONCE William Edward "Ed"** age 62 of Prairie du Chien, WI died Thursday 4 January 1996 at Praire du Chien Memorial Hospital. The funeral was held on Tuesday 9 January 1996 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Cambridge, MN. Rev. James David Hahn officiating, with burial in the Riverside Cemetery in Brunswick, MN.

Arraignments made by Garrity Funeral home, Prairie du Chien. Ed was born 28 September 1933 in St. Paul, MN. Son of Robert Adrian and Ann Marie(Sedor) Koonce.

A help-wanted ad ran in the St. Paul Paper in 1950 which read, "WANTED 16 year old with a good reason for not returning to school". Ed answered that ad and started a 43 year career with Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing (3M). Ed served on the Aircraft



Carrier USS Oriskany during the Korean War. (see **KOONCE to KOONCE Jan. 1994 Page 8**). After the service he went back to the job at 3M, which he held since 7 August 1950. Ed continued with 3M until he retired in January 1993. He

married Irma Wisdom on 22 September 1956 at St. Lukes Catholic Church in St. Paul, MN. On 29 August 1957, Daniel Edward was born followed on 19 November 1958 by Roberta Lee and 14 August 1961 by David John.

Ed is survived by his loving wife, Irma, of Prairie du Chien, WI; son Daniel and wife Camille and their three



children, Regan, Alex & Zeke of Houston, Minnesota; daughter Roberta and husband Robert Hayes and their children, Jacob & Jordan of St. Paul; David and wife Debra and their children, Alisha & Malorie of Prairie du Chien. Also five brothers, Robert (Harriet), Oakdale, MN; Jim (Gladys), Brainerd, MN; Lee (Jane), New Ulm, MN; Donald (Patricia), Oakdale,

MN & John (Nancy), Somerset, WI; and sister Carol Loehr, St. Paul, MN. Ed was preceded in death by his parents, Robert A. & Ann Marie (nee Sedor) Koonce, one brother, Leonard in 1943, and one grandchild, Ann Marie Koonce in 1985.

# Koonce Researchers To Meet In Nashville, TN August 7, 8, 9

Slowly but surely, plans are being made and finalized for the long awaited genealogical research meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, August 7, 8 & 9, 1996. The conception of this meeting came about when several members of the Koonce Genealogical Society began talking about attending the Annual Southern Koonce Family Reunion being held in Paris, TN on August 9-11, 1996. Since we were going to take time off (vacation) and travel all the way to Tennessee, we thought we should take advantage of this opportunity to conduct genealogical research in the state. It should be emphasized that this "get together" is going to be strictly informal and as such, an invitation to join us is extended to all readers of this newsletter and to all members of the Society. If spending time at the State Library and Archives or at the local county court houses, going through countless records looking for ancestors is not your idea of how to spend your vacation time, but you are planning on vacationing in the area, then you are invited to stop by in the evening and visit with us.

The primary objective of this meeting will be to conduct research on the various related KOONCE families that have emigrated though Tennessee before moving on to settle in other states to the north, west, and south. A secondary objective for some will be to see if and how many of the TN descendants from states such as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, etc. are directly or indirectly related. It is not inconceivable that all of these people may be descendants of the Koonce family or families that were among the first settlers in North Carolina in the 1700s. And lastly (but far from the least), will be the objective to share resources and information and thus, gain knowledge and support for conclusions derived by each of us in our own independent research.

The following information is primarily provided for the benefit of those planning on meeting in Nashville and conduct-

ing research at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSL&A). However, whether going to Nashville in August or not, this information will hopefully provide some assistance to anyone planning a research trip in the future.

If given a choice, most genealogists would prefer to search original records. These are most available in the county courthouses, especially records dealing with land transactions (deeds), marriages, births, deaths, probates, & various court proceedings. However, there are 95 counties in the state of Tennessee and unless you're fortunate and your ancestors lived a long time in one county, you could spend most of your research time travelling from one county seat to another. Therefore, the best overall place to conduct Tennessee genealogical research is at the (TSL&A) simply because they have the largest collection of TN records housed in a single, easily accessible location.

The TSL&A is located at 403 Seventh Avenue, North, Nashville just across the street from the state capitol. Its hours of operation are 8:00 to 6:00, Monday through Saturday, except on holidays. If you are planning a visit there at some time other than in August of this year, you might want to call and check the hours of operation since they are subject to change. Their telephone number is 1-615-741-2764. Although we will be using the Hampton Inn located at the junction of Interstate highways 24 and 65 as our central gathering place, there are numerous hotels and motels of various size and costs in that area, as well as in other areas, all within easy driving distance of the TSL&A. There are also several hotels within a few blocks of the TSL&A and within easy walking distance. For those of you joining us at the Hampton or staying in a motel nearby and then driving to the State Library & Archives, I've been told that if a person arrives "early", free parking is available in front of the TSL&A

building. Parking at an hourly or daily rate can also be obtained at a parking lot a couple blocks away. There are several places to eat within easy walking distance from the library/archives. A cafeteria, the Huddle House, is one block away and there is a food court in the Church Street Center a block or two further away. For those looking for something a little more fancier, the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza is also in the immediate area.

The TSL&A, as the name implies is actually two adjoining buildings separated by a central Vestibule or lobby area. When entering the Vestibule, the library section is to the left and the Archives section is to the right. Whether a veteran researcher or a beginner, upon entering the TSL&A, one should immediately register at the entrance desk and obtain a TSL&A User Card. Along with the User Card, which will facilitate your access to most records, you will be given a information sheet that lists the TSL&A rules and a sheet that outlines the genealogical source records available in the Library and in the Archives. The information contained on these two sheets will save each researcher a lot of time and hassle, for example, use of pens are prohibited when using most records, so remember to take pencils. In addition to the usual card catalogs and computer catalogs, there are numerous indexes, guides, and listings also available. Although some records in the Archives, across the Vestibule, are originals, most of the materials contained there are on microforms (microfilm, microfiche, & micro-card). Numerous microform readers are readily available for your use and archivists will gladly provide assistance when required. One should not overlook the value of discussing your search with a librarian or archivists. These individuals are more familiar with the vast holdings in both locations and can probably save you considerable search time by identifying which records would most likely contain what you seek. Photocopies can be made

*(Continued on page 8)*

## ??? QUERIES ???

**October 1995**

Any information on **Seth Koonce** listed as 4-6 years old on the 1850 Sumner Co. TN census. His parents were **Phillip and Elizabeth Koonce**. There ages were in the early 20's. **Ronnie Gibbs** 101 Lynn Lee Drive, Old Hickory, TN 37138.

E-Mail:

"ronnie.gibbs@nashville.com"

**January 1995**

**Alfred KOONCE**, born 17 November 1906, is a grandson of **Samuel & Mary Koonce** and is the fourth of eighteen children born to **Francis Samuel Koonce**, 1861-1938 and **Matilda Ceiga**. What happened to the rest of that family?

When did Samuel & Mary bring their family to Indiana?

**July 1995**

**Philip Kuntz**, born in Germany and came to this country and settled in York Co., PA near Franklin & Carroll Townships. Died in 1815. had children: **Michael**, 1780-1880; **Philip**, 1781-1862; **Jacob** 1783-1802; **Elizabeth**; **Mary**; **Rebecca**; **Susanna**; **John b.** 1800-1879.

**July 1995**

Need any information on the family of **James E. Koonce**, b. abt 1866. m. **Narcissa Scott**. Sons name is **Usher David Koonce**, b. 4 Dec 1886, m. **Mary Susan Raynor**. **Usher & Mary** had a daughter named **Idell Koonce**, b. 9 June 1913, m. **Harry Walso Dotson**.

**July 1995**

Where can we buy the following books? **Jones Co. North Carolina History and Genealogy**, by **J. P. Harriet**.  
*Editor*

## David Koonce Letters, Cont.

*(Continued from page 3)*

tin F. Tupper the piece pleased me when I read it & as it was raining yesterday I could not go out on the street & thought that it might interest you & Jacob, the oftener you read it over the better you will like it agreeable to my Judgement

I answered Sister Elizabeth A.'s letter on the the 7th Inst. which I hope arrived safe in due time, say to Jacob I would be glad to hear from him & Martha; I expect a letter by the passenger train this evening from John & then I can say something about Harpers ferry on the next page please give my love to Father, Mother, Brothers & Sisters; and to Mother not to be uneasy about my leg for by the time you receive this letter it will be well or nearly so; your affectionate Bro. D.Koonce

p.3

I have just received a letter from Brother John stating that him & Lucy are both well & that Brother George & Family have not yet returned to H. Ferry from Foreman's & that there has been no cholera deaths at Harpers ferry since the 17th Inst. & no new cases he give me a list of names & date of their deaths he commences July 29th & ends Augt 17th. viz white person 35 - 5 of those were with other diseases viz - 2 children Summers complaint, 2 consumption & 1 old Age & 11 Black men & women Died with Cholera; viz whole number of Deaths by cholera from July 29th to Augt. 17th - 41 - that is 30 White & 11 Blacks -

John also states that Aunt Susan Shriver is very sick with the Bilious fever & that all the rest of the Loudoun Folks are well, In the list of cholera deaths that John sent me I see that 3 deaths was not at Harpers Ferry but citizens of Harpers ferry that left & died shortly after leaving viz. Michl. Crawl in Gerards Town & his wife in the same place & Jacob Crawl Jr. in Martinsburg;

I think that I will go to Harpers ferry next week if the cholera does not Brake out again

I sent out a small treatise on cholera which I hope you will pay some attention

too if you get the Cholera in your neighborhood, give my love to all I remain your affectionate Brother

D. Koonce

---//---

Additional information regarding these letters: The Nicholas KOONCE family moved from Harpers Ferry, Jefferson county VA (WV) to Greenville, Bond county IL during the summer of 1840. With the exception of two sons, David and John, family members that moved west included: Nicholas and Elizabeth SHRIVER KOONCE, sons George, Jacob, Christopher H., Nicholas N., and Joseph Lewis and daughters, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Mary Frances. Regarding the two that remained behind, David as we gather from the letters above worked as a conductor on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad and lived in a boarding house in Cumberland Maryland. Since there is no mention of a wife or any family member to care for him, it is assumed that in 1850 he was unmarried. When the family moved, David was given the "power of attorney" by his parents to sell their properties in Jefferson county. From the letters above, in 1850 John was living with his wife Lucy in Harpers Ferry. (John worked as an "amouner" at the Harpers Ferry Armory and his wife was Louisiana MURPHY) Brother, George KOONCE, and his family later returned from Illinois to Harpers Ferry, probably around 1845 and his descendants still live in the area today. Just prior to the beginning of the Civil War, the three brothers were still living in the same areas as J.F. Alexander, editor of the Greenville Advocate, writes of stopping to visit with his Koonce friends in Cumberland and Harpers Ferry. Christopher H. KOONCE followed his brother's advice and remained in Bond county IL.

Why does our family grow up so fast, compared to others?

When we are babies we only  
**KO-ONCE**

# Don & Pat Koonce Celebrate 40th Anniversary



Donald Lawerance Koonce, 6th child of Robert A. Koonce and Ann Marie (nee Sedor) Koonce and Patricia Marie (nee Blum) Koonce, were given a surprise 40th wedding anniversary party by their children. Don & Pat were married at St. Luke's Catholic Church on Summit & Lexington Avenues in St. Paul, Minnesota, by Father Kennedy, on Saturday 25 February 1956.

The celebration was attended by their five children, Pat, Rick, Karen, Julie & Becky. Nine grandchildren, Maria, Amber, Nicole, Jamie, Chelsie, Adam, April, Jessica and Jimmie. Their great grandson, Michael. Brothers of Don, Bob, Jim and John. (Don's sister Carol was off galavanting in New Zealand and choose not to attend.) and many other friends and relatives were there to help celebrate this festive occasion.



(Top) Don & Pat Koonce at their 40th wedding anniversary party.

(Bottom) Don & Pat Koonce with their granddaughter, April Rose.

## Koonce Genealogy Research Meeting In Nashville

*(Continued from page 6)*

of most written material and cost 15 cents per page. These copy machines take only quarters, dimes, and nickels and although one dollar and five dollar change machines are available, it might be advisable to take some change with you. For more information and helpful hints regarding the TSL&A, see comments below.

David L. Koonce, our Civil War editor, and I have taken on the primary responsibility of "semi" organizing this meeting in August. David has gathered information on hotel availability and established the Hampton Inn as our "headquarters". As a guest of the hotel, a small meeting room will be at our disposal and this will be where we will gather in the evenings following our foray to the TSL&A. You don't have to be a guest of the Hampton to join us. For the benefit of those of you planning on conducting research or visiting with

us in August, I have put together more detailed information on the TSL&A which includes listings of some records available. Anyone desiring a copy of this and additional hotel information, contact: Tom Palmer, 1121 Havey Rd., Madison, WI, 53704-1751. If you provide me with the name of the county where your Koonce ancestor lived and where you will be concentrating your research, I will also add a detailed listing of the records available from that county. We are looking forward to our visit to Tennessee and meeting new Koonce families as well as being with old friends.

### NEW MEMBERS *(Includes e-mail address if applicable)*

Annalea German  
RR #1  
Shobonier, IL 62885

Charles L. & Cathern A. Koonce  
205 Locust  
Washington, IL 61571

James B. Koonce  
1266 Dennis St.  
Maplewood, MN 55119

Jon Koonce  
1315 9th St.  
Oregon City, OR 97045

Alan Schaffert  
613 Aralia Ct.  
Modesto CA 95356

James Hargraves  
7698 Lakeridge Circle  
Elk Grove, CA 95624-9650



# KOONCE vs KOONCE, in the Civil War

(Continued from page 4)

around Corinth, Mississippi. In response Grant began moving his forces down the river to Savannah, Tennessee and to a fateful meeting at Pittsburg Landing and a small white country church called Shiloh.

By March 10, 1862 the 41st was at Savannah. Conditions here were deplorable with reports indicating the crowded unsanitary conditions at the landing and on the boats which forced men and animals to live together. A rash of related illness broke out, followed by so many deaths that lumber for coffins became scarce. Savannah soon became a vast hospital. It is important to remember here that more men died of disease during the civil war than by bullets by almost a two to one margin.

On March 15th the 41st and John Koonce, now reorganized again into the 4th division, 1st brigade of the Army of Tennessee commanded by General Stephen A. Burlbut an Illinois politician and friend of Lincoln, was ordered to Pittsburg Landing and claims it was the first to set foot on the landing. Illness continued to follow and it is estimated that nearly one third of the army was unfit for duty. A comment by James McDonogh in his book *Shiloh - In Hell Before Night*, states "There was too much drill and routine, rain and mud. Sanitation was bad, with logs serving as latrines, and sickness and diarrhea were rampant at the time."

By April 6th, the 41st was encamped on the central left of the Union Army. Its left against the Hamburg-Savannah Road, the famous "Hornets Nest" to its left and in front of the "Peach Orchard". In a move that caught the federal forces by surprise, confederate forces moved north from Corinth and attacked at 6:00am on Sunday, April 6th. The 41st received the attack at 9:00am and held its position until 1:00pm when Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston commanding Confederate forces on the field stated "Those fellows are making a stubborn stand. I'll have to put the bayonet to them." The report goes on to say, "Johnston himself then rode along the front of the regiment, (45th Tennessee) touching their bayonets and saying, "These will do the work... We must use the bayonet." At the center of the line Johnston wheeled his horse and yelled: "I will lead

you!" and attacked again.

The attack was aimed primarily at the 41st Ill. who now held a thin line in the Peach Orchard. Having been engaged for so long, their ammunition was low. The command of the regiment was now under the command of Col. Ansel Tupper, who had proven himself at Fort Donelson. As the confederates charged their position, Tupper sought to rally his men to counter the attack with their own bayonet charge. His last words were, "We must not, we will not be driven from this position. We will use the cold steel first." Tupper was then struck in the temple by a rebel bullet and soon died. The 41st, under heavy attack, low on ammunition and its command in disarray, withdrew from its position. Some observers say the 41st "got up and ran". Others say that with the loss of Tupper their will to meet the charge was gone.

Costly though the attack was to the federal forces and the 41st Illinois it was even more so for the Confederacy. The attack over, General Johnston returned from it, his clothing had rips and tears and one boot sole was cut nearly in half by a mineball. He commented, "They didn't trip me up that time." He was wrong. Johnston had been shot behind the right knee. Unaware of the wound, he had ordered surgeons to care for the injured and directed other commanders to deliver further orders to continue to the battle. Alone, Johnston slumped in the saddle, found, he was led to the safety of a nearby ravine, where without a surgeon and no one around who knew how to apply a tourniquet, he bled to death.

The Army of the Tennessee survived the day of April 6th and the long night that followed. On April 7th it counter attacked a now disorganized confederate army and drove it from the field. The 41st Illinois regained what honor it may have lost the day before. Ordered to attack on the right of General McClelland, it did so with "great spirit", and its commander reports they received the joyful news that our troops had driven the enemy from the field. The 41st was ordered back to its old encampment. John Koonce had fought his battles. The diseases mentioned above took their toll.

Sick and suffering he is sent, probably by boat, to the federal hospital at Evansville, Indiana. The Return of Casualties, Discharges, Etc. for Company D, 41st Illinois Regiment states Private John Koonce died of chronic diarrhea on April 27, 1862. But their is confusion on the date. The muster roll for May and June, 1862 list him as sick in the hospital in Evansville, Indiana. For July through December, 1862 the roll states he was assigned as a nurse in Hospital No. 5. The January/February roll 1863 states he died on July 03, 1862. The complete entry states; "Have very good evidence to believe he died in the hospital (no. 1) Evansville, Indiana. His death has never been reported to me officially although have written two or three time to the surgeon in charge. The evidence I have is, one of my men, that was at the hospital, says he seen him buried." Last settlement of clothing was Aug. 31, 1861.

John Henry Koonce, husband, father, son, had fought his last battle. He is buried in the Civil War section of Oak Hill Cemetery, Evansville, IN. His marker simply states: "John Kunce, Co. D, 41 Ill. Inf."

## Editors Corner, Cont.


this newsletter going. As always, any pictures sent to me will be computer copied and promptly returned if you want the originals back. I can also make extra copies for you at no cost.

Don't forget about the 1996 Koonce Family Reunion in Paris, Tennessee on August 9-11. For information contact Alma Rogers, (901) 668-7863. The Greater Koonce Golf Classic will be held in Somerset, Wisconsin again this year on August 17, 1996. There is a picnic at a nearby park after and a lot of games, boating, fishing, swimming and food. For information on the Somerset gathering call Patricia Koonce 612-739-9625.

If you are having a Koonce gathering let me know and I will put it in the July issue of KOONCE to KOONCE.

Do you have any old letters from or to Koonce relatives that you would like to share with other Koonces? Send the letters or copies of them to me for future articles in the Newsletter.

# 1806 Tennessee Marriage Bonds

Know all men by these presents that we Christopher Koonce  
 and Amos Small are held and firmly bound  
 unto John Sevier Governor of the State of  
 Tennessee and his Successors in Office in the full  
 sum of two thousand dollars: To be hold on  
 condition that there be no lawful objections  
 why the said Christopher Koonce and  
 may not be joined together as man and wife  
 in the holy estate of matrimony: Given under  
 our hands & seals this 27th day of Jan<sup>y</sup> AD 1806  
 Test  Christopher Koonce  
 John Allison

Amos Small

Know all men by these presents that we Amos Small  
 and Polly Koonce are held and firmly bound unto  
 John Sevier esq Governor of the State of Tennessee  
 and his Successors in Office in the full sum of  
 two thousand dollars: To be hold on condition  
 that there be no lawful objection why Amos Small  
 & Polly Koonce may not be joined together as  
 man and wife in the holy estate of matrimony: Given under  
 our hands & seals this 27th day of January AD 1806.

Amos Small

Christopher Koonce

(Top) A Marriage Bond for the marriage of Christopher Koonce, 1778-1844, and Polly Brinson. (Below) A Marriage Bond for the marriage of Amos Small to Nancy "Polly" Koonce, 1788-1825. Nancy was the daughter of Philip Koonce 1765-1841 and his first wife, Nancy Griggs. Philip & Christopher were brothers, the sons of George Koonce, Jr. 1734-1800. Both of these bonds were signed on the 27th day of January AD 1806, by John Allison. Christopher was the uncle of Polly Koonce. (Received these copies from Bobby Koonce, Arlington, TX. 1996)

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# DANIEL KOONCE (1777-1860) NC to TX

by John Holbert Koonce

Information gathered on Daniel Koonce (1777-1860) by John H. Koonce, using LDS, Deeds, wills and early court records from Lincoln County Tennessee and Tennessee State Archives, Census Records from Texas State Archives, Rusk County Texas Deeds, and Rusk County Library.

Daniel Koonce, son of George Koonce, Jr. (1734-1800) was born in Craven Co., NC, Oct. 1777. He married Catherine McQuillin about 1794. His two oldest sons are George, born about 1795 and Phillip, born April 1796 in Jones Co.,

Daniel's brothers, Phillip, Christopher, George, and cousin Jesse Koonce were among the petitioners in petition number 28-2-1799 to the General Assembly of TN "Inhabitants of Sumner County on the south side of Cumberland River, petition that a new county be formed" (Wilson County) dated 25 July 1799.

Daniel, a farmer, moved his young family to Sumner Co. (Wilson Co. formed

after 1799), TN after the birth of son Phillip in 1796, in search of new farmland and to be reunited with his brothers.

Daniel's third son, Needham B., was born 11 July 1806 in Wilson Co. TN. Daniel is listed on the 1806, 1807 Wilson County tax list, and it is not known how long he remained there.

He then moved to Lincoln Co. TN with his brothers and cousins. Brother Phillip was appointed to the first Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Lincoln Co. and elected the first Chief Justice or Chairman on 26 February 1810.

On 29 May 1811 Daniel and others were ordered by the court to view and mark out a road around the plantation of Amos Small, husband of Polly Koonce. Daniel was summoned for jury service for the August term on 4 June 1811 to serve 26 August, 28 August and 10 September 1811.

Sons, Thomas McQuillin (Mack)

Koonce born about 1817, and Daniel Marion Koonce born about 1819 probably in Lincoln Co. Daniel is listed in the 1820 census and Daughter Minerva Ann Koonce was born 20 October 1823 in Lincoln Co. It is not known how long Daniel lived in Lincoln County.

Daniel then moved to McNairy Co. where 2 children were born. Lucinda Jane was born 31 July 1828. John Alexander was born 29 March 1832. Daniel purchased 25 acres of land 8 Feb 1828 and sold same 27 Dec. 1836. He bought 100 acres from John A. McAlpin 13 Sep 1837.

He left McNairy Co. moving to Mt. Enterprise, Rusk Co., Texas, arriving 1848-1849, and lived there until his death April 1860, age 82 years 180 days.

Daniel Koonce's last marriage was to Mary McAlpin, exact time and place unknown but thought to be about 1830 in McNairy Co. It is not known if there were other marriages or children.

# KOONCE to KOONCE

July 1996

Official Publication of the Koonce Genealogical Society

Volume 3 Issue 2

## LETTERS FROM KOONCES OF VILLA RIDGE, ILLINOIS

The letter below was copied from a re-touched photocopy of the original written by Lora Dell Koonce wife of Elmer Koonce to their son Clarence. Clarence was 19 years old at the time this letter was written. Where he was or why he was there at this time is not known. Harry was Clarence's younger brother and would have been 17 in November 1920. The original letter has very little capitalization, almost no punctuation and is reproduced here with the original spelling. The (/) has been inserted where it appears commas or periods would be appropriate. I found the letter among the effects of Harry, my father, after his death in November 1995. Lindell F. Koonce 3/26/1996

Villa Ridge Ill

Nov. 10, 1920

Dear Son

I will try and ans your letter/ we have quiet a chang in the weather this morning we nave oeen navng such lovely weather all tall.

Harry is still over at Tamms/ I dont think he is doing much but I guess he is better off than at home/ he worres me to death when he is here/ he got rid of \$50 of his money in the last 2 weeks/ of coarse he got himself a coat and a pair of shoes out of that. Since loland got his car it is some where in a crap game every night/ if you want to make anything of your self you had better make arrangements to do it out there for I dont think you can ever save a dollar here and if you do like having something you will not have enough to go back on in the spring/ everything is shutting down/ the next morning after the election the sextion foreman at Villa R got a wire that Harding was elected/ to cut all his men off but 3/ the Singer factory cut the wages 20 per mo the next morning. we want to see you awful bad but if you can make \$100 a month and board you had better stay till nearer spring till we see how things turn out. Papa has had lots of chances to rent land but I am never going to go through what I have this summer.



Lindell F. Koonce



Harry Ross Koonce  
1903-1995



Elmer Jacob & Lara Dell Horrell Koonce  
Picture taken 1900

You know I have washed you boys cloths and patched and everything else on Sunday and give Harry a good chance this summer and he has done pretty well but what has he got to show for it. I cant tell him anything. I must close/ do what ever you think best/ if you want to come home come on and we will see what turns up/ things may take a change for the better by spring. Things will never be so high again so what you have not saved you will never have a chance to again/ good by/ with lots of love Mamma.

I have the original of the letter below which is written in pencil (very faint) on 5 in. by 8 in. lined stationery and in a U. S. Post Office 2 cent envelope post marked Dec. 20, 1928. The envelope is addressed to H. R. Koonce, Bluford, Ills. Return address E. J. Koonce, Villa Ridge. Copy below is exactly as written with all spelling as in original. When this letter was written Elmer Koonce, whose wife of twenty- seven years had died just twenty months before, was forty-six years old. Elmer was a man of limited education as the as the grammer and spelling below

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## EDITORS CORNER

by John Paul Koonce



At the end of March I took a trip to Texas. Early on the 25th I met Bob & Janet Koonce at their home in Arlington. Bob & I went to visit Helen & James Nunnally in Tyler to share Koonce information. While we were at the Nunnally's we got a call from another Koonce researcher, Leon Bates. He was going to meet us there but his business, Diesel Rebuilders Supply, Inc., got in the way and Bob & I went to his shop in Gladewater, TX. We had a very enjoyable and informative visit with Leon. We returned to Arlington about 6:00 PM.



John Frank Bigony, John Koonce, Bob Koonce, in Arlington, Texas

Friday, we again met at Bob & Janet's house and called John Frank Bigony of Arlington.

(Continued on page-5)

### Koonce Genealogical Society Newsletter KOONCE to KOONCE

is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. No attempt has been or will be made to verify the authenticity of any articles that are printed in this publication. It is intended to share information only. Send all inquiries to KOONCE to KOONCE, 1821 37th St. Somerset, WI 54025.

Subscription Rate      \$15.00 Year  
Back issues                \$ 5.00 Each

(Additional contributions accepted)

Mail Check or Money Order to: KGS 1821 37th St. Somerset, WI 54025

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# KOONCE'S MOVE TO TEXAS

by John H. Koonce



John H. Koonce

Thomas McQuillin (Mack) Koonce, b. abt 1817 in Lincoln Co., TN, his wife Sarah Elizabeth Wilson, b. 17 Mar 1824 in Indiana and daughters Mary Elizabeth, b. Jan. 1839, Hester, b. 1844 and Margaret, b. 1846 along with his brother Daniel Marion Koonce, b. abt 1819, Lincoln Co. TN, his wife Mary Jane Wilson, b. 28 Dec 1824, and son Wilson Daniel (Dee) Koonce, b. 4 Oct. 1844, McNairy Co. TN, left Tennessee and moved to Texas.

The Koonce brothers had married Wilson sisters and were joined in the move by the sisters father, William M. Wilson and other members of the Wilson family.

The route taken is not known although methods of transportation of goods over long distances usually were by water utilizing river boats. The route may have been overland from McNairy Co, Tennessee to the Mississippi River and down to the joining of the Red River and up the Red River to Shreveport, LA thence by Cypress Creek and Caddo Lake to Jefferson, Texas which served as a major river port, then overland to Titus Co., Texas.

According to family tradition the Koonces and Wilsons arrived in Titus Co., 1 Dec 1846.

The brothers together purchased "511 acres of land by virtue of Certificate no. 1 granted to Robert D. Hogan by the board of Land Commissioners for the county of Milam that amount of said certificate having been transferred by said Hogan to said Koonces." This from the surveyor's plat and field notes signed 4 July 1848 by Thomas R. Wilson, deputy surveyor, Red River district. Accepted and filed for record 7 June 1849.

The deed conveying the 511 acres of land described in the later survey "for the sum of \$625.00 in hand paid" by Thomas M. and Daniel M. Koonce was signed 12 April 1847 and filed for record at Mt. Pleasant, Titus Co.

This land is near the Friendship Community approximately four miles east of Mt. Vernon, Franklin County.

The Koonce brothers began paying taxes on this land in 1847.

Thomas McQuillin (Mack) Koonce died sometime between 1847 and 1850, his widow, Sarah, having married Milton Gregg, as shown by the 1850 census. That census listed wife Sarah, and Mary, Hester and Margaret Koonce. These daughters later married. Mary Elizabeth to Nathan Poe, Hester to Samuel Douglas and Margaret to Franklin Mote.

Milton Gregg and Sarah Elizabeth Wilson Koonce Gregg had four children,

James, Martha, Wilson Marion and Sarah C.

Daniel Marion Koonce and Mary Jane Wilson had a son Wilson Daniel (Dee), born 4 Oct. 1844 in McNairy County, TN. They settled on half of the 511 acres and engaged in farming and improving the property. Daughter Lucinda Jane (Jennie) was born 1 Feb. 1847 and believed to be the first Koonce born in Texas, Flora Elizabeth was born in 1848 and John Marion, was born 18 Aug. 1851.

According to family tradition, Daniel Marion Koonce died 1 or 2 months prior to the birth of John Marion. Daniel Marion was finishing construction of the house and other improvements and was constructing a water trough from a large hollow tree and in lifting this tree by himself probably suffered a rupture and died as a result of peritonitis.

Mary Jane Wilson Koonce did not remarry and remained on the land with son John Marion until her death 23 Apr. 1909.

In 1848 or 1849 the Koonce brothers' father, Daniel b. 1777, his wife Mary McAlpin Koonce and son John Alexander, daughters Minerva Ann and Lucinda Jane moved from McNairy Co. TN to Mt. Enterprise, TX, remaining until his death in 1860.



John Marion Koonce  
(Makes you want to dance, don't it?)

John Marion Koonce and Rebecca Jane Ward were the parents of Holbert Koonce (1878-1968) who married Florence Elizabeth McDonald. Holbert and Elizabeth were the parents of Leo Koonce (1914-1992) He married Lena Francis Bratcher and their son John Holbert Koonce b. 1935 is the author of this article.

# Letters from Villa Ridge, Illinois

(Continued from page 1)

will attest but he was obviously moved by the receipt of the wreath from his son and daughter-in-law and did his best to express his feelings to them. I found the letter in the effects of my father Harry Koonce after his death November 12, 1995. Lindell F. Koonce 3/28/96.



Allie Koonce 1870-1965 and brother Elmer Jacob Koonce 1872-1937  
Picture taken late 1920's

grave but I thought the rest of you had other things to think of but now when I had I do believe God has given me the best children Daughter in laws included that any man has ever had. As for the reath I think it is the prettiest one I ever saw. I have showed it to several of the folk around here and they all said it was just lovely

Villa Ridge IL Dec 19 1928  
Dear Harry & Letha I dont owe you a letter but I do owe you all the love and affection that a father ever owed a son and daughter. I recieved the reath all O. K. and I just cant tell you how I appreciate it. I dont think I ever had anything make me feel so good way down deep in my hart as that did. I know you was all busy and Xmas coming on and the kiddies to think of and look after and I didn't expect your thoughts to run back as mine did. I had been thinking I would get a chance to get to Cairo and get a reath for mommas



Laura Dell Horrell Koonce  
Picture taken about 1925

but with me there is something that goes far beyond the loveliness of the reath and that is the loveliness of the ones that gave it. It seams pretty hard sometime to struggle along in this old world with nothing much to look forward to but when I think of what a good family of children I have it is still worth the effort God bless you all I hope you have a happy Xmas.

Clarence told me about the little girl that died so it will not be a very merry Xmas for them.

Mrs Hayden was taken suddenly ill last night and is verr bad they dont know what the outcome will be Evert says she acts just like momma did and he is aful woried.

Edward is going to Murphysborough tomorrow he seams to be tickled over the prospects of his new job.

We are all well and doing fine hope the kiddies are getting better of ther colds sure would Write often and keep us posted how that dirt road is so if we want to drive over we will know.

Love to all Papa

## Obituaries

**A. J. Koonce**, son of George Small and Nancy Akin Hayes Koonce, was born near Mt. Vernon, Ind., January 8, 1859, and passed away at Carbondale, Illinois, October 6, 1946, after an illness of four months. At the age of 21 he moved to Illinois near Crossville. In 1905, he moved to a farm near Albion and for the last three years he has lived in Carbondale to be near his son.

He united with the Baptist church at Shortville in White county in 1902, and at his death was the oldest member of that congregation.

On October 31, 1880, he was united in marriage with Margaret Adeline Casebier and to this union seven children were born: George Small (1881-1899); Elvis Monroe (1883-1884); Elizabeth B. (1885-1885); Elbert (1887-1945); Robert (1889-1964); Nancy A., 1896-1895; Alvin Jackson (1898-1949). His companion of more than sixty four years passed on August 1, 1945.

Surviving are two sons, Robert Koonce, Carbondale, and Alvin J. Koonce, Ft. Wayne,

Ind. Also there are eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren, and a host of friends who mourn his passing.

**Albert Marvin Koonce** died January 26, 1970 at 12:30 A.M. at the Bedford Co. Hospital, Shelbyville, TN. Death was caused by heart attack. At about 8 A.M. July 17, 1969, Albert had surgery for a double hernia at Bedford Co. Hospital. At 2:10 P.M. the same day he had a heart attack and was transferred to the Baptist Hospital in Nashville. After being released from the hospital he improved slowly. On Sunday January 25, 1970 he opened his store, at Normandy, for business and was feeling real good. That night he awoke with severe pains in his chest and his wife and Mr. Charlie Hittson carried him to the hospital where he died some thirty minutes later. Albert was mayor of Normandy at the time of his death.

**Bennie Koonce**, 62, Chicago Bennie N. Koonce, 62, of Chicago died at 6:15 A.M. Thursday, Nov. 10, 1994, at Edgewater Hospital in Chicago.

The body was cremated. Services will be held at 11 A.M. Friday, Nov. 25, at Maplewood

Cemetery, St. Elmo, Illinois

Mr. Koonce was born Dec. 5, 1931, in St. Elmo, son of Ben and Maxine Eaton Koonce. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He married Sondra Robinson in Alaska in 1953.

Surviving are his wife; son, Scott Koonce of Chicago; daughter, Robin Koonce of Chicago; brother, Jim and his wife Helen Koonce of St. Elmo; sister-in-law, Marcia Koonce of Tulsa, Okla.; aunt, Grace and her husband Fred Ragel of St. Elmo; nieces, Joni Springman and Kari Beasley; nephews, Denny Koonce, Barry Koonce and Daniel Koonce; and several cousins, great-nieces and great-nephews.

One brother, Berry Koonce, preceded him in death.

**Athalia Koonce**, 80, died April 23, 1996 at Britthaven of Onslow in Jacksonville, NC. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Onslow Memorial Park with the Rev. William A. Boykin officiating.

She was the daughter of the late Hammond Koonce and Lucy Athalia Thompson Koonce. She was preceded in death by brother, Burke Memorial contributions may be made to Richlands Methodist Church.

# KOONCE vs KOONCE

## A History of the Koonce Family in the American Civil War, 1861-1865

by David Leon Koonce



The following article is submitted by fellow enthusiast of civil war and genealogy and husband of Suzanne Koonce, Mr. Tim Lohrstorfer of Indianapolis, Indiana. I found it very interesting and informative. I believe you will also.



Tim Lohrstorfer and son Luke.

John Henry Koonce fought with the Forty First Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. A son of the South, he was born in Williamson County, Tennessee to George Koonce and Mary Houston Enloe in 1826. In 1829 his parents sold their property in Williamson County, including a negro woman slave and moved to Bond County, Illinois. John's parents could have hardly imagined the issue of slavery would call their son back to Tennessee 33 years later and claim his life. In the process, John would take up arms against his cousins who remained in the south and they would meet on the battlefields of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. The disease spawned at Shiloh would eventually claim John's life as it did so many other Americans in this most climatic of conflicts.

After the Union defeat at the Battle of Bull Run, President Abraham Lincoln called for more volunteers to come to the cause. Heeding this call, John left Amity in Bond County, enlisted in the Forty first Illinois Infantry. In doing so he left his wife, Martha Pigg Koonce and their ten children. He also left behind a successful blacksmith trade which he operated with his father. John was listed as present on the regimental muster rolls from August 1861 thru April 1862. This places him at the battles of Fort Donelson and Pittsburgh Landing, also known as the battle of Shiloh.

The Forty First Illinois, which came to be known as "The Fighting Forty First", was formed in Decatur, Illinois by Colonel

Issac Pugh in July and August 1861. John mustered into its Company D. On August 9th, 1861. The regiment left for St. Louis, Missouri, then went by boat to the union facilities at Birds Point opposite Cairo, Illinois.

They did not get to stay long, on September 4th, now in a brigade with under E. A. Paine with fellow Illinois regiments the 9th, 12th, and 40 Illinois, they occupied Paducah, Ky. On Nov. 6th they moved again to Columbus and Melvin, Ky. This green regiment received criticism for its marching ability and habits during this last march. They were accused of severe straggling, creating the appearance of a "mere armed mob" and some members were even accused of stealing the property of and robbing the local citizens.

Now under the overall command of General U. S. Grant, the regiment went by steamer on February 5th, 1862 to participate in the plan to cut Tennessee in half and attack the confederate Fort Henry in conjunction with a gunboat fleet under Admiral Foote. Due to withdrawal by confederate forces the 41st saw no direct action at Ft. Henry but from its position in older confederate works was able to witness the bombardment by Admiral Foote's fleet and saw the fort surrender.

Flushed with easy victory at Ft. Henry, on February 11th, Grants troops, including the 41st, began their march across the peninsula to Fort Donelson. The march began with high spirits and was marked by unseasonably warm weather, causing many of the soldiers to cast aside their blankets and overcoats. On the 13th of February with nearly 15,000 troops almost encircling Fort Donelson the weather changed and freezing rain and sleet began pelting the troops now lacking the equipment to stay warm. The situation was made worse when fearing detection by confederates, the army was ordered not to build fires. On the 14th, after the defeat of the fed-

eral gunboats attacking the fort, reality set in. Hearing confederates in Fort Donelson cheering the defeat of the gunboats, union jubilation turned to silence. The troops knew if the fort were to be taken, they would have to do it.

On the morning of the 15th, the 41st was positioned south and east of the town of Dover along the Wynns Ferry Rd. The brigade now consists of the 9th, 12th and 41st Illinois. Victor Hicken in his book "Illinois in the Civil War" states "this brigade, consisting of three tough Illinois regiments, was a most fortunate choice. Beyond these, however, there were still no reserves, nothing to seal a break in the Union line, if such a development should occur." Confederate forces then under General Pillow did attempt to break out of the siege. The main thrust of the attack came just on the flank of the 41st and its brigade now under command of Colonel John McArthur. The attack began 5:45am and drove a hole in the union line. McArthurs brigade came to aid of their friends and was "hotly engaged". After hard fighting, the confederate forces succeeded in pushing back the union line and opening an escape route. However, General Pillow, at the moment of success ordered the confederate attack to stop and had his forces return to their lines. The hole was plugged by troops of General Lew Wallace of Indiana. The next day, 16 February, Grant sent his famous line, "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon you works", in response to surrender terms from the trapped confederates. In response, Ft. Donelson surrendered, twelve to fifteen thousand rebel troops were captured. Among them, James M. Koonce, Hiram Koonce of Company D, 41st Tennessee and John J. Koonce and William W. Koonce of Company K of the 41st Tennessee infantry. (For another version of this battle, see *Koonce to Koonce*, vol. 1, Issue 4, October 1994).

(Continued on page 8)



# Editors Corner

(Continued from page 2)

ton, a Koonce descendant. He met us at Bob's to chat about our research. We also called other Koonce descendants, Margaret Ryan-Harken & Eleanor Parker Swank. Margaret had other commitments and couldn't get away and Eleanor & Husband had the flu.

On Wednesday, I left the Dallas area and headed for Round Rock, TX where I visited with a high-school friend before heading to



Leon Bates

McAllen, Texas Thursday morning. I was stopped for the second time for not having license plates on my truck. I was told that a woman had been kidnapped, raped & murdered in North Texas and the only description of the killer was a male, white or Hispanic in his 50's driving a black pickup.

Met Johnny & Della Koonce at their home in McAllen. Johnny & I dug right in on genealogy. We compared notes and I think we raised more questions than we answered. We stayed up until about 11:00 PM chatting & sharing our research. I woke up about 5:00 AM only to find Johnny in his office reviewing his notes. We started the genealogy dialogue again until it was time to pick up my wife, Nancy, at the Harlingen airport. Nancy & I went back to Johnny & Della's and were given a grand tour of the lower Rio Grand Valley on both sides of the border until Nancy & I had to leave Monday morning. Before we left Johnny donated two books to the Koonce Genealogical Society. One on Jones Co., NC and the other on Onslow Co., NC. They will be a lot of help in our research.

Nancy & I visited some friends and stayed in Harlingen Monday night then headed north to Refugio to visit with Alice Koonce. We stayed with her Tuesday night and shared Koonce information helped Alice with the computer. The visit was much too short. Alice has

been tracing Koonces longer than anybody I know of and I would liked to have spent several more days with her. She is a very enjoyable person to be around.

After leaving Refugio, we stopped at Lubby's Restaurant in Lufkin, Texas for dinner and met with Maurine and O. L. Parker. Maurine and her niece, Marleta Childs, are in the process of updating their book on the Koonce, Johnson, Colvin, Huey and Brinson families. I offered to do the typesetting. We hope to have it in time for the Koonce research meeting in Nashville August 7, 8 & 9.

If you are planning to attend and haven't contacted Tom Palmer yet, please do so soon. Tom has put together a packet of information on this meeting and it is free. Call or write; Tom Palmer, 1121 Havey Road; Madison, WI; 53704-1751 (608) 249-6819



Nancy Koonce, Johnny Koonce and his wife Della on the Reo Grande

From Lufkin we went to Shreveport, LA. We spend a quiet and wonderful April 4th together, as that was our 32nd wedding anniversary. We were married in St. Paul, Minnesota on 4 April, 1964.

Friday morning we headed for Vienna, LA, looking for the grave of Sarah Colvin Johnson. A copy of a picture of her stone is in Maurine's book and I wanted a better quality picture. After checking the library & courthouse, we found a description and approximate location for the Katy Cemetery. A diligent search through some thick woods turned up nothing. We gave up and headed north when, near Dubach, LA, we saw the name Colvin on a carved wood sign in front of a

house. There was a man setting in an old rusty chair in the front yard. We stopped and introduced ourselves. He gave his name as R.B. Colvin and asked if he knew where the cemetery was. He said he did and would be glad to show us. We drove off Highway #167 and opened up a barbed wire gate and headed down a trail through the woods only to find a large tree had fallen across the road.

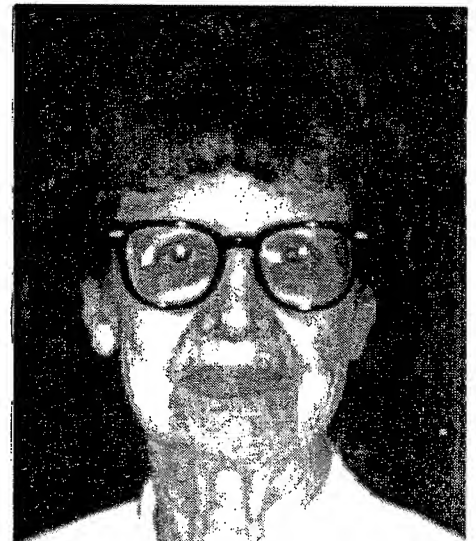
We went back to R. B. Colvin's house and got an axe. After chopping the tree from the road we went to the end without finding the cemetery. R. B. suggested we go into Vienna to a friends house and ask him where the cemetery is because he hunts that area. The friend wasn't home. We went to another friends house and he told us to look about 50 yards to the left of the trail where it connects with a gas line. We drove back in the woods but never found the cemetery. Mr. Colvin said he would ask around and if it was found he would send pictures of all the grave stones.

Our next night was spent in Hot Springs, Arkansas where we met and had a very enjoyable visit and breakfast with Mack Koonce.

We headed north to Branson, MO. We arrived there in time to take in the Shoji Tabuchi Show. Then on home to Somerset to process all the information we gathered. Hopefully it will be in some kind of order for Nashville.

The 1996 GREATER KOONCE GOLF CLASSIC will be held on 17 August at Chabré Golf Course, Somerset, WI. The annual picnic will follow around 1:00 PM at the public park and picnic grounds in Bayport, MN on the St. Croix River. For information call or write Bob Koonce, (612) 777-2985; 2938 Hamlet Ave N. Oakdale, MN 55128-4000.

Don't forget about the Koonce Reunion at Paris, TN (following the Nashville meeting) 10 & 11 August. For information on this reunion call or write Alma Rogers, (901) 668-7863; 110 Kemmons Dr. Jackson, TN 38301-3723.



Helen Nunally at home in Tyler, TX

# An Inventory of the property of John Koonce

*Transcribed by Thomas E. Palmer, 1995*

## John KOONCE (1826?) Haywood Co. Will Book 1, pp. 4, 5, & 34

An Inventory of the property of John Koonce Dec'd to wit

p. 4 One negro girl named Mariah about the age of sixteen One negro boy named Killis about the age of eight years old, two notes of hand on Thomas Bowling, one for \$15.00 and the other for \$40.00 due one day after date, the note of \$15.00 dated in April last, the other dated in May last. One other note on John Henderson for \$50.00 due sometime in November last one receipt on Lewis Small of N Carolina for notes and accounts left with him to collect on different persons for \$93.68 between nine and ten dollars of this receipt belongs to David S. Nienn, one cow and calf one horse one Heifer one grubbing hoe 2 beds bedsteads

p. 5 and furnature, 6 earthen plates two dishes set of cups and saucers, one milk pot 1 sugar Dish 1 pitcher 3 pewter plates 1 pewter Bason 1 Tin Bason 2 bread pans 1 tin waiter 4 tin cups 3 Tea canesters 1 brass candlestick 1 tin knife box, 1 washing tub 2 pails 2 pork Barrells 3 flower barrells 1 pot 1 Tea kettle 1 spider 1 keg, 1 Woollin big wheel 3 sitting chairs one bible & Hymn book, Benadicts History of the Baptists 1 Dictionary, Dialogue of the Devils, Holcombs Premature Theology, 1 tin trunk 1 Jug 1 Coffee mill two trays -

This is all the property belonging to, and debts due the estate of the said decident and the estate is not indebted to any person within my knowledge Isaac Koonce Adm't

p. 34 State of Tennessee  
Haywood County

Decm Term 1828

It is ordered by the court that Charles Wortham, Daniel Cherry and James Wortham jr be and are hereby appointed to settle with Isaac Koonce administrator of Jno Koonce Decs'd and make report to the next Term

a Copy Test B H Landers Clerk  
By B Coleman Dep

An account of the money that Isaac Koonce administrator of the estate of John Koonce Decs'd have recived as administrator of said estate Viz From

Thomas Bolin on his note	\$15.82½
John Henderson note	52.20
Thomas Boling on his 2 note	40.85
1" Rect on Lewis Small of N Carolina not yet collected by the "adms" for the notes and acct's to the amount of (supposed to be good)	93.68
	202.55

A Balance on said Thos Boling 2 note due for "\_\_\_t" not good \$1.60  
The Adms. have paid out none of the money due the said estate

Isaac Koonce Adm

State of Tennessee  
Haywood County  
Koonce dec'd with the Adm. Isaac Koonce and that the above is what he has exhibited to us given under our hands this 17th of Feby 1829

Persuant to the annexed order, we have settled and audited the accounts of the estate of John Koonce

Dan C Cherry  
Charles Wortham

Recorded 20th of May 1829

James F Wortham



## ??? QUERIES ???

Which one of Charles & Malinda (nee Hoopaw) Koonces' daughters married a John Sheets? Myrtle or Nettie?

\*\*\*\*\*

John Koonce b. abt 1801-3 m. Mahala. Lived in Memphis in 1860. Later moved to Mt. Pleasant, TX. Had a daughter, Nancy b. 1839 m. Henry M. Hays. Who were his parents? Where was he born? What was Mahala's maiden name? Query from Larry W. Smith, Celina, TN.

\*\*\*\*\*

Robert Koonce, born 1803 in Wilson Co. TN. Son of Lemuel Koonce and Else Jarman. Last known location was Fayette Co. TN about 1835. Does anyone know where he went or what happened to him? Any information on his family? *James Hargraves, 7698 Lakeridge Circle, Elk Grove, CA 95624-9650*

\*\*\*\*\*

Member F.A. Briggs, 2106 Moultrie Rd., Camden, SC 29020, needs any information on the family of James Lee Koonce, b. abt 1866. m. Narcissa Scott. Sons name is Usher David Koonce, b. 4 Dec 1886, m. Mary Susan Raynor. Usher & Mary had a daughter named Idell Koonce, b. 9 June 1913, m. Harry Waldo Dotson.

\*\*\*\*\*

New member, Jon Koonce, from Oregon City, OR, is the son of David Franklin Koonce, of Richlands, NC. His grandfather was Henry Farriar Koonce, born about 1885. Who was Henry's father?

\*\*\*\*\*

My fifth great grandmother was a Koonce. I don't know much about her. Her name was Rachel Koonce and she was married to David Adams. I know they had a son named Nelson who married Rebecca Stephans. Nelson and Rebecca were living in Missouri at the time of their death and are buried in the Goodland Cemetery in Iron County, Missouri. This is information I picked up in the Ozark Heritage, Dent Count Missouri Area Cemeteries & Families, Volume III. This book also says Nelson was Rev. Nelson Adams. Do you have any information that might be helpful? Marilyn K. Larsen; P.O. Box 33; Sand Point, Alaska 99661; Phone (907) 383-2262; FAX (907) 383-2252; E-Mail MLarsen2@aol.com

## Wright KOONCE (1858)

### Laundale Co. Will Book C, 241

*Transcribed by Thomas Palmer, 1995. Tom is the editor of "Koonces of The Northeast" and has contributed continuously to this newsletter. Without people like him it would be impossible to continue with the high quality we have.*

#### Page 241

In the name of God amen. I Wright Koonce of the county of Laundale and State of Tennessee, being of sound disposing mind and memory "Bless be" God for the same, do make and publish this as my last will and Testament here by revoking and making void all other wills by me at any time made. Item 1st. I resign my soul into the hand of the Almighty God who gave it. My body I commit to the Earth to be decently Buried. Item 2nd. I direct that my funeral expences and all of my Debts be paid as soon after my Death as possible out of any money I may Die possessed of or may first "come" into the hands of my Executor here in after to be named.

Item 3rd. It is my wish and "therefore" direct that my Plantation upon which I now live containing one hundred and forty three Acres (143) together with all of my horses, Cattle, Hogs & Sheep, with all "Their future increases" and all the Plantation tools, Waggons, Carts, Household & Kitchen "furnatures" and be kept together on the farm in common for the support and maintance of my wife and my Daughters Caroline Matilda, Mary Elizabeth, Louisa Jane, Ofelia, and my son Franklin so long as they continue to remain on the above

#### Page 242

named farm as their home and residence. Item 4th. Now in the event of either my Wife, Daughters, or Son "Marrying or leaving the farm, for other resident "Homicle", then in

either case, their claim upon the above named farm, stock, &c, for a support, will cease until a final Devision of my entire estate takes place among all of my heirs. Item 5th. It is my wish and therefore direct that as soon as my wife and children above named, Shall have Married, or left the farm, for other homes, then all of my Land, together with the above named Stock of Horses, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep and their Increases, Plantation tools, Waggons, Carts, Household and kitchen furniture, be sold and the procedes arising from the sale of the same, be equally divided between my wife Mary Y. and all of my children, to wit, Caroline Matilda, Mary Elizabeth, Louisa Jane, Ofelia, Franklin, Louis S., John H., and William W. Koonce. Item 6th. I nominate my friend R.W. Green, and appoint him Executor to this my last will and Testament. Given under my hand and seal this day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight.

#### Page 243

#### Right Koonce Estate

Signed Sealed published  
Right Koonce  
and declared to be  
the last will and testament  
of the Testator in presence of  
the subscribers  
Thomas R. Green (Test)  
D. M. Henning (ac?)

P.S. the word Heirs, on the fourth line of Second page, "interline" before signed.

Probated at April Term 1858. In  
C. Manley, Clerk

Don't waste your time & money  
looking up your family tree.  
*Run for public office and your  
opponent will do it for you!*

# KOONCE vs KOONCE, in the Civil War

(Continued from page 4)

In this its first major engagement, the 41st Illinois suffered 200 killed and wounded, and suffered intensely from lack of food, lying in snow and rain without shelter and temperatures that hovered at 12 degrees.

With the loss of Tennessee, confederate forces began concentrating in and around Corinth, Mississippi. In response Grant began moving his forces down the river to Savannah, Tennessee and to a fateful meeting at Pittsburgh Landing and a small white country church called Shiloh.

By March 10, 1862 the 41st was at Savannah. Conditions here were deplorable with reports indicating the crowded unsanitary conditions at the landing and on the boats which forced men and animals to live together. A rash of related illness broke out, followed by so many deaths that lumber for coffins became scarce. Savannah soon became a vast hospital. It is important to remember here that more men died of disease during the civil war than by bullets by almost a two to one margin.

On March 15th the 41st and John Koonce, now reorganized again into the 4th division, 1st brigade of the Army of Tennessee commanded by General Stephen A. Hurlbut an Illinois politician and friend of Lincoln, was ordered to Pittsburgh Landing and claims it was the first to set foot on the landing. Illness continued to follow and it is estimated that nearly one third of the army was unfit for duty. A comment by James McDonogh in his book *Shiloh - In Hell Before Night*, states "There was too much drill and routine, rain and mud. Sanitation was bad, with logs serving as latrines, and sickness and diarrhea were rampant at the time."

By April 6th, the 41st was encamped on the central left of the Union Army. Its left against the Hamburg-Savannah Road, the famous "Hornets Nest" to its left and in front of the "Peach Orchard". In a move that caught the federal forces by surprise, confederate forces moved north from Corinth and attacked at 6:00am on Sunday, April 6th. The 41st received the attack at 9:00am and held its position until 1:00pm when General Albert Sydney Johnston commanding Confederate forces on the field stated "Those fellows are mak-

ing a stubborn stand. I'll have to put the bayonet to them." The report goes on to say, "Johnston himself then rode along the front of the regiment, (45th TN) touching their bayonets and saying, "These will do the work... We must use the bayonet." At the center of the line Johnston wheeled his horse and yelled: "I will lead you!" and attacked again.

The attack was aimed primarily at the 41st Illinois who now held a thin line in the Peach Orchard. Having been engaged for so long their ammunition was running low. The command of the regiment was now under the command of Colonel Ansel Tupper, who had proven himself at Fort Donelson. As the confederates charged their position Tupper sought to rally his men to counter the attack with their own bayonet charge. His last words were "We must not, we will not be driven from this position. We will use the cold steel first." Tupper was then struck in the temple by a rebel bullet and soon died. The 41st under heavy attack, low on ammunition and its command in disarray, withdrew from its position. Some observe say the 41st "got up and ran". Others say that with the loss of Tupper the will of the 41st to meet the charge was gone.

Costly though the attack was to the federal forces and the 41st Ill. it was even more so for the Confederacy. The attack over, General Johnston returned from it, his clothing had rips and tears and one boot sole was cut nearly in half by a mineball. He commented, "They didn't trip me up that time." He was wrong. Johnston had been shot behind the right knee. Unaware of the wound, he had ordered surgeons to care for the injured and directed other commanders to deliver further orders to continue to the battle. Alone, Johnston slumped in the saddle, found he was led to the safety of a nearby ravine, where without a surgeon and no one around who knew how to apply a tourniquet, he bled to death.

The Army of the Tenn. survived the day of April 6th and the long night that followed. On Apr. 7th it counter attacked a now disorganized confederate army and drove it from the field. The 41st Ill. regained what honor it may have lost the

day before. Ordered to attack on the right of Gen. McClelland, it did so with "great spirit", its Comm. reports they received the joyful news that our troops had driven the enemy from the field. The 41st was ordered back to its old encampment.

John Koonce had fought his battles. The diseases mentioned above took their toll. Sick and suffering he is sent, probably by boat, to the federal hospital at Evansville, Indiana. The Return of Casualties, Discharges, Etc. for Company D, 41st Illinois Regiment states Private John Koonce died of chronic diarrhea on April 27, 1862. But there is confusion on the date. The muster roll for May and June, 1862 list him as sick in the hospital in Evansville, Indiana. For July through December, 1862 the roll states he was assigned as a nurse in Hospital No. 5. The Jan./Feb. roll 1863 states he died on July 03, 1862. The complete entry states;

"Have very good evidence to believe he died in the hospital (no. 1) Evansville, Indiana. His death has never been reported to me officially although have written two or three times to the surgeon in charge. The evidence I have is, one of my men, that was at the hospital, says he seen him buried. Last settlement of clothing was Aug. 31, 1861. M-out roll next which officially appears."

John Henry Koonce, husband, father, son, had fought his last battle. He's buried in the Civil War section of Oak Hill Cemetery, Evansville, IN. His marker simply states: "John Koonce, Co. D, 41 Ill. Inf."

## BRYANT SHINE KOONCE HOUSE

Dennis Jones of Richlands, NC tells us the old, dilapidated, Bryant Shine Koonce house, built in 1837, at Richlands, has been dismantled. The lumber salvaged from the house was used to rebuild the Daniel Thompson home, built ca. 1840, on a site in Richlands. Attn. Mark Bardill purchased the old Koonce house and dismantled it during the fall of 1995. I hated to see the it destroyed, but attempts to seek preservation funds for restoration failed. At least parts of it are still visible in the Thompson restoration. (See *KOONCE to KOONCE Vol. 1- Issue 2* for related story.)

# 1996 Koonce Gen. Soc. Membership List

Archbell, Roy A.  
P.O. Box 57  
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0057

Bates, Leon & Clara  
Ridgeview Ln.  
Longview, TX 75604-2843

Bigony, John F.  
2609 Riveroaks Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006-3639

Bond Co. Gen. Soc.  
911 Killamey Dr.  
Greenville, IL 62246-1356

Briggs, Frederick A.  
2106 Moultrie Road  
Camden, SD 29020-1712

Childs, Marleta  
Box 6825  
Lubbock, TX 79493-6825

Cosey, Ellen Virginia  
11823 Clearview Rd.  
Hagerstown, MD 21742-4308

Dehn, David & LeniJo  
650 W. Larpenteur  
St. Paul, MN 55113-6545

Eib, Ken & Mary  
1757 N. Abner St.  
Mesa, AZ 85205-3419

Emmick, Zola Koonce  
6062 Garfield Ave.  
Sacramento, CA 95841-2008

Family Hist. Lib. Acqu/Ser.  
35 NW Temple St.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-1003

Fountain, Mamie & N.D.  
4926 Hwy 7 West  
Nacogdoches, TX 75964-9008

Frazelle, Mrs. Joyce Koonce  
P.O. Box 93  
Richlands, NC 28574-0093

German, Annalea  
Rt 1 Box 50  
Shobonier, IL 62885-9707

Gibbs, Ronnie  
101 Lynn Lee Drive  
Old Hickory, TN 37138-2303

Ham, Helen K.  
1457 Washington St.  
Natchitoches, LA 71458-0049

Hardison, Claude & Helen  
3510 Woodland Drive, N.W.  
Cleveland, TN 37312-3450

Hargraves, James  
7698 Lake Ridge Circle  
Elk Grove, CA 95624-9650

Harris, Mary  
4332 Percheron Ln.  
Arcata, CA 95521-7325

Hines, Judy  
P.O. Box 448  
Morehead City, NC 28557-4025

Johnson, Glen & Phe  
480 El Camino Real  
Greers Ferry, AR 72067-9572

Jones, Dennis E.  
383 Richlands Loop Rd.  
Richlands, NC 28574-6332

Kamper, Lowell & Billie  
2898 Holt Rd.  
Holtville, CA 92250

Keenum, Mr. & Mrs. W. E.  
404 Morningview  
Athens, AL 35611-2836

Koenig, Allen & Carolyn  
6909 Knotty Pine Dr.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8639

Koonce, Alice  
P.O. Box 889  
Refugio, TX 78377-0889

Koonce, Andrew & Billie  
6505 Martin Ct. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3630

Koonce, Becky  
239 1/2 Woodland Ave.  
Duluth, MN 55803

Koonce, Bob  
Box 163  
Gibson City, IL 60936-0163

Koonce, Bob & Harriet  
2938 Hamlet Ave N.  
Oakdale, MN 55128-4000

Koonce, Bob L. & Janet A.  
708 Mc Kay Court  
Arlington, TX 76010-1932

Koonce, Charles  
11915 Charing Cross  
Austin, TX 78759-3649

Koonce, Charles & Mary  
189 Banken Rd.  
Sulphur, LA 70663-0202

Koonce, Charles & Cathern  
205 Locust St.  
Washington, IL 61571-2207

Koonce, Christina M.  
Medical Dept. USS Blue Ridge  
(LCC 19) FPO AP 96628-3300

## Obituaries

**CHARLES EDWARD KOONCE** age 75, died at his home west of Mounds on Friday 8 Nov. 1935. He had resided there for the past 38 years. He was born in Bond County, Ill. 30 June 1859.

Surviving, besides his wife, Lena Koonce, are three daughters, Mrs. Myrtle Sheets of Mounds. Mrs. Nettie Braswell of Carterville, and Mrs. Hazel Utley of Plaquemine, La.; one son, Edgar of Mounds, one brother, G. W. of Greenville, 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He had been confined to his home for the last six weeks.

Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Methodist church with Rev. (illegible), officiating. Burial in Thistlewood Cemetery.

**GEORGE R. KOONCE** age 67, died 5 November 1993. Served in military 1947-1948. Received J.D. of Law and chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota. Worked at the Minnesota Department of Health until 1980 when he retired as a result of an accident. Buried at Stoddard, Wisconsin.

**POLK KOONCE** 89, of Fayetteville, Tennessee, Born about 1896, died Thursday, February 21.

Funeral services were held Sunday, February 24 at Higgins Funeral Home in Fayetteville, Tennessee with Rev. Harold Stanfield officiating. Burial was in the Riverside Memorial Gardens of Fayetteville.

Mr. Koonce was the son of the late William and Josie Howell Koonce. He was a Methodist.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Daniel H. Neugent of Clarksville, MS and Glendon Koonce of Fayetteville; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren

**JOEL E. KOONCE** July 9, 1909 – On last Friday morning, Mr. J. E. Koonce, who resides with his family

on what is known as the Nina Weina Ranch in the Big Valley, left home on foot to go to Pyote, a distance of ten miles, to catch the after noon train for Barstow in order to be present at a civil hearing in Justice Court in which he was the plaintiff. Saturday morning the case was called and, Mr. Koonce failing to appear, the case was decided in favor of the defendant.

Sunday it became generally known that Mr. Koonce had not reached Pyote and a search was instituted and his remains were found near a road about a mile south of Pyote and in a short time a report was current that he had been assassinated, but the body being in a decomposed condition was the cause of this report for at the inquest it was proven beyond a doubt that he had met with no foul play and that death resulted from natural causes.

**JOHN RAYMOND KOONCE** formerly of St. Paul. Teamster Local #120, died at his home in Zapata, TX, Nov. 17, 1993, age 61. Preceded in death by son Steven; wife Grace (Beth); brother Charles and Sister Margaret. Survived by son John (Jeff); brother Wesley; sister Francis; sister Lila and 5 grandchildren. Memorial service with military honors was held Nov. 22, 1993 at Jackson Funeral Home, Zapata, TX

**MRS. M. A. KOONCE** 89 of Villa Ridge, IL, Pioneer resident of Pulaski Co. IL, mother of Mrs. G. B. Kelly of Cairo, died at her home at 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon. She had been ill for three months and had been confined to her bed for the past three weeks.

Besides Mrs. Kelly she is survived by her daughters, Mrs. Allie Thomason of Mounds, Mrs. Ida Helman of Villa Ridge and sons L. H. Koonce of Mounds and Elmer of Villa Ridge. She had lived in the vicinity of Villa Ridge nearly all her life and was one of the oldest pioneer residents in Pulaski County.

(Continued on page 10)

# KGS Membership Cont.

Koonce, David & Betsy  
1 Caribou Ct.  
Fairfield, OH 45014-5581

Koonce, Don & Pat  
590 Gentry Ave. N.  
Oakdale, MN 55128-6402

Koonce, Don D.  
3074 N. Dewberry Pl.  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465-4222

Koonce, Donald & Mary  
811 N. Wilson St.  
Greenfield, IN 46140-1433

Koonce, Donald Brock  
P.O. Box 3725 Park Place  
Greenville, SC 29608

Koonce, Ed & Irma  
301 S. Dousman  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Koonce, Edwin L.  
1129 E. Houston River Rd.  
Sulphur, LA 70663-9057

Koonce, Gene & Bernice  
2921 NE 160th Dr.  
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## POSTAGE LAW

The bill purporting to abolish franking which was reported from the House Postal Committee a few days ago, proposes to deprive Congressmen of the privilege, giving each member \$100 per annum in stamps as an offset, but it retains the privilege for the President, ex-Presidents, President's widows, Postmaster General and Deputies, Auditor and Chief Clerk and for those postmasters whose annual pay is less than \$200. The bill also deprives newspapers of the privilege they now enjoy of having exchanges and their county circulation free. *(This was copied from the Greenville, IL Advocate, 1858)*



# Christopher Koonce Burial Site

*Bienville Parish, Louisiana  
Bob Koonce / 26 May 1996*



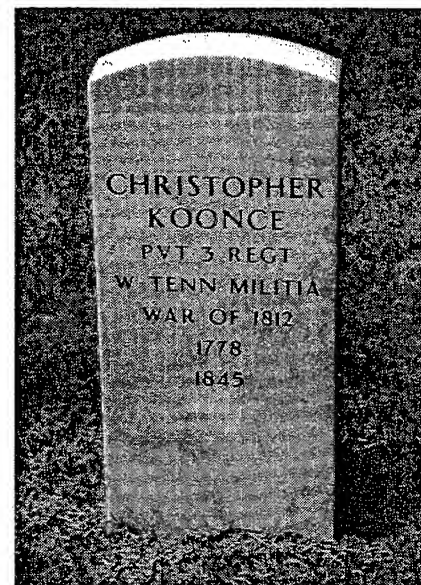
The January 1995 newsletter article on the Christopher Koonce Family by Alice Koonce reported that it was believed that Christopher is buried in the Old Saline Cemetery in Bienville Parish, Louisiana in an unmarked grave. My wife, Janet, and I set about in September 1995 to determine if any progress had been made in locating the actual site of Christopher's grave. Our journey took us through the northern part of Louisiana where our ancestors settled and Koonces have lived since the early 1800's, through what are now Claiborne and Bienville parishes. The sights we saw gave us an appreciation for the feelings they must have had when deciding to settle there. The beauty and serenity must have been attractive to the travelers and reminded them of the Wilson County Tennessee area they had left.

A visit in Coushatta, Bienville Parish with Louise Giddings Long and her husband Othal Long gave us a fresh viewpoint on the identification and marking of Christopher's resting place. Louise is a third great granddaughter of Christopher through Amander

Koonce. Subsequent conversations with descendants Thomas Raymond Koonce and George Jacobs provided more details. The story follows.

Pinkie Hudson Koonce (1870 - 1954), wife of Thomas Neal Koonce (1875 - 1939) Christopher's great grandson, showed the grave site to her grandson, Thomas Raymond Koonce of Castor, Bienville Parish. Pinkie Hudson Koonce was a school teacher and a historian and had done a considerable amount of research on the Koonces in Louisiana. Thomas states that she had a near photographic memory and an amazing command of the details and events involving that area. The place she identified was in the Old Saline Cemetery adjacent to the unmarked grave of Christopher's second wife, Martha Williams (d. 1866). Thomas Raymond placed a marker flag on the spot and placed a wooden marker at the site of Martha's grave.

Louise obtained permission to place a headstone on the site and ordered a military veteran's stone from the Veteran's Administration. George Jacobs of Castor, Bienville Parish, a fourth great grandson of Christopher's through Amander Koonce, set the stone in 1993. George relates that he found a few bricks and some iron ore rocks when



digging the base for the marker that would indicate the location of a grave.

The Headstone indicates a death date of 1845 that date is approximate. Other sources place the date between 1844 and 1848.

The Old Saline Cemetery is located about two miles north of the town of Saline, Louisiana just off State Highway 9 near the Old Saline Baptist Church.

# KOONCE to KOONCE

October 1996

Official Publication of the Koonce Genealogical Society

Volume 3 Issue 4

## 1914 MOOSE LAKE, MINNESOTA FIRE

by Robert A. Koonce

*(Editors note: Robert A. Koonce (1904-1979) is a descendant of the NC Koonces. He was the father of your editor, John P. Koonce and the first of five children of James Monroe Koonce. Grandpa Jim didn't stay around home very much. He had been gone about four years at this time, we don't know where he went. This article was taped by John Koonce about 1978 at Eagle Lake near Brainerd, MN.*

In August, 1918 I came back to the farm from the Monastery, in Cincinnati, Ohio. World War 1 was going on yet. My mother, Agatha Emma (Ayde) Koonce, was running the farm near Barnum with a hired man by the name of George Fuller.

On the 11th of October, a fire started burning all around us. My grandfather, Leonard Ayde, was there. He and I went out to do a little work in the field when we saw the fire. We decided to burn off a patch of ground ahead of the fire to try and control it. We got a bucket of water and some gunny sacks and burned off five acres to the Northwest of us. That was all the clearing we had on the eighty acre farm. It was a hayfield, just stubble. We kept the fire from spreading by sopping it off, with these wet sacks, when it got far enough. So we felt pretty proud of ourselves.

The next day, the wind was terrible! Fire just sprung up all through the woods. In those days it was thick woods in the area, and that burned all day. Ah, the smoke

was so thick it almost choked you. We kept watching and watching and gee, the wind kept coming on and I guess that wind must have been blowing about 60 miles an hour. It was just blowing huge



This is the Koonce house near Barnum, MN as it was in 1918. Left to right; Robert Koonce, Gerald A Koonce, Isabel Koonce, Norman A. Koonce, Agatha Ayde Koonce, Josephine Koonce, Unknown Person, Grandpa Leonard Ayde.

chunks of birch bark through the air and it would land and start a fire someplace, because everything was dry...dry as a bone.

On October 12 our barn caught on fire, and our horses were in

there. We tried to get them out. They were panic stricken. We had to put sacks or something over their eyes and beat them so they would run out of the barn or they would stand there and burn to death.

All we had for water was a hand pump. That pump stood halfway between the barn and our house and I suppose there was only about 75 feet from the barn to the house. That would make it about 35-40 feet from the fire to the pump. My mother was

there doing the pumping. She pumped continuously, and the other barn that was not on fire was only about 20 feet away. We had that barn full of bundles of oats that we

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## EDITORS CORNER

by John Paul Koonce

The number right after your name on the address label of this newsletter is the last year your dues are paid. (Example: Koonce, John P. 96 means that my dues are paid up to the end of 1996) 1997 dues are due now. See form on page two of this issue for membership information.

Tom Palmer (*Virginia Koonces*) suggested that I identify the family lines of the people that appear in this newsletter. Good idea. I will do that whenever possible. If you have an idea for improving this newsletter, please don't be shy, let me know.

A lot of things have been happening since the July issue went to press. Interest in THE INTERNET is on the increase. There is a lot of information there and the possibilities of sharing information by way of new technology is staggering. I've been communicating with other people that are putting Koonce information on the internet, such as Joan Ehrlich, Molalla, OR (*NC Koonces*) and John L. German (*NC Koonces*). John has an internet page on the German/Jarman family and Joan is thinking about one on the Koonce family. She has some other

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### Koonce Genealogical Society Newsletter KOONCE to KOONCE

is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. No attempt has been or will be made to verify the authenticity of any articles that are printed in this publication. It is intended to share information only. Send all inquiries to KOONCE to KOONCE, 1821 37th St. Somerset, WI 54025.

Membership Rate      \$15.00 Year  
Back issues              \$ 5.00 Each

(Membership includes Newsletter)

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# 1996 GREATER KOONCE GOLF CLASSIC

by Robert Jerome Koonce

The Greater Koonce Golf Classic of 1996 was played on August 17, at the Chabré Executive Golf Course near Somerset Wisconsin. There was record turn out with 32 golfers participating for the cup, trophies and prizes. It seems as though youth has infiltrated and dethroned the seniors as champion.

This years winner of the cup was 18 year old rookie, Bob Basset of Bethel Minn.. Bob shot a 39 going out (white tees) and another 39 coming in (blue tees) for a new classic record of 78. Nice shooting Bob. The women's classic trophy remained with last years women's champ, Shelly Koonce, of Houston, Minnesota. Shelly shot 111. Nice shooting, also Shelly. Congratulations to both players, Well done.

Other scores and trophies awarded were:  
Women's low gross with 114, Julie Semple.  
Men's low gross with 84, Brian Lisowski?  
Women's low net with 62, Mary Kehoe.  
Men's low net with 56, Shane Stangl. Men's

High gross (Duffer Award) with 125, Nick Koonce. Women's high gross (duffer award) with 150, April Koonce. It was grand day for golf and all participants seemed to have a good time. This writer did.

We all gathered at the Bayport, Minnesota Park, along the shores of the scenic St. Croix River, after golf, for some chow and chit chat. There was boating on the St. Croix river along with fishing or just plain sightseeing. This part of the St. Croix is part of the national Scenic Rivers and it is not unusual to see deer, beaver, otter, muskrats, Bald eagles, Osprey, hawks and a great variety of other wild life. There was also horse shoe for those that wanted more competition sports.

Thanks to all who showed up and those who helped make it all happen.

It will be the same time same place next year and "Y'all are invited". For more information contact Pat Koonce 612/739-9625 or for Golf contact Bob Koonce 612/777-2985.

## It's time to renew your membership in the KOONCE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

It also makes a wonderful holiday,  
birthday or special occasion gift

Send annual membership dues (which includes the  
KOONCE to KOONCE Newsletter) of \$15.00 to:

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# 1933 Will of Hattie S. Koonce

HATTIE S. KOONCE --10 Oct. 1873-24 Oct. 1933 -- WILL

*Hattie was the daughter of Christopher Koonce who was born in Jefferson Co. Virginia.*

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, Hattie S. Koonce, of the county of Bond and State of Illinois, being of failing health but of sound and disposing mind and memory, do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former wills, by me, at anytime heretofore made, in manner following:

FIRST: I will and direct that all of my just debts and funeral expenses be fully paid, by my Executor, hereinafter named, as soon after my death, as shall, by him, be found convenient.

SECOND: I give, devise and bequeath to the Presbyterian Church, of Greenville, Illinois, one-tenth (1/10) of my gross estate, as may be shown by inventory to be filed incident to the administration thereof, said bequest, however, to be exclusively held and used as a revolving loan fund, to aid Christian young people, members of the Presbyterian Church, in securing a college education.

This fund to be loaned at the discretion of the Session, those preparing for definite Christian Service to be given first consideration.

As a suggestion, but to be left to the final consideration of the Session, the rate of interest on same loans to be at the rate of four percent (4%) per annum. As a further suggestion, incident to said trust estate, it is desired on the part of Testatrix herein, that said trust fund, when not utilized and reinvested in U.S. Government securities, at best possible rate.

THIRD: I give an bequeath to my friend, Dorothy G. Rainey, who has been so loyal to me, the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

FOURTH: I give and bequeath to my nephew, Walter H. Koonce, the sum of One hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

FIFTH: I give and bequeath to my nephew, Ralph Koonce, the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

SIXTH: All the rest, residue an remainder of my said estate, be it real estate, personal or mixed, and where-so-ever the same may be situate or locate, I give, devise and bequeath the same as follows: Two thirds (2/3rds) thereof, in fee simple, to my brother, George W. Koonce; the remaining one-third (1/3rd) of said residue, I give and bequeath to my brother, Charles E. Koonce.

For good and sufficient reasons. I hereby make no bequests to any of my next of kin, desiring my entire estate to descend and vest expressly as here-in-above set forth, and not otherwise.

Incident to the settlement of my estate and to expedite the same, I hereby direct and fully authorize and empower my executor, hereinafter named, if I should die seized of any real estate, or any interest therein, to have full right to sell and dispose thereof, either at public or private sale, and without any order of court in the premises, and at such price and upon such terms as he may deem to be to the best interest of my estate, and in connection therewith, to make, execute, acknowledge and deliver good and sufficient deed or deeds of conveyance therefor.

LASTLY: I hereby nominate and appoint my brother, George W. Koonce, to be Executor of this my Last Will and Testament, and direct that he may be permitted to act as such without bond.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, the said Hattie S. Koonce, have to this my Last Will and Testament, contained on two sheets of paper, and to this last sheet thereof, subscribed my name and affixed my seal, on this the 1st day of August, A.D. 1933.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Hattie S. Koonce, as and for her Last Will and Testament, before us, who, at her request, in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto, on this the 1st day of August, A.D. 1933.

Ruth E. VonderBruegge

C. E. Hoiles

*Filed October 31, 1933*



# 1918 MOOSE LAKE FIRE

(Continued from page 1)

had thrown up there because there was 3 cows and the horses that we had to feed. I got a bucket of water



Robert & Isabel Koonce 1924

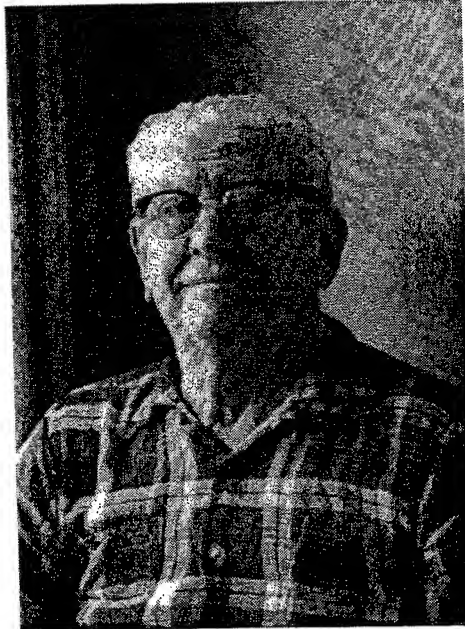
and climbed the ladder, into the haymow. The sparks were flying and setting the straw on fire. I'd swat them out. I tripped and fell backwards. When I got up to the hole between me and the door of the haymow, it was full of fire, without a thought, I leaped out, fortunately I didn't hurt myself. Just then the barn went up in flames, like a shot.

Behind that barn was a chicken coop. I suppose we had about fifty hens, and that thing caught on fire. By this time it was pitch dark. Those hens caught on fire. They would fly through the air with their feathers burning. It was a mess. We saw that we couldn't save the barn or the chicken coop so we decided we would try to save the house.

We got up on the roof, it was a slanting shed type roof on a log house. We had a ladder against it. We had a kid working for us named

Gilbert Bogenholm. When my mother would pump the water he would fill the bucket and crawl up the ladder half way. I'd grab the bucket and throw it on the roof. I still had a wet gunny sack and I'd put out the sparks as they flew through the air. This went on most of the night. This Bogenholm kid, would get so excited that he would grab the bucket and instead of stopping at the ladder he would go right on by and go down the road about 40 ft. before I would have to holler at him and he'd say, "Oh, Oh Ya!" and then he would come back and hand me the bucket.

We had another old log house not too far away, maybe 60-70 feet from the house we lived in. We used it for a barn when everything



Robert A. Koonce 1979

else burned. One of our neighbors came over. His house wasn't in any danger because he had a lot of clearing around there. He was in that house and said he had put out 12 or 13 fires that had started in there when the wind blew the



Agatha Emma (Ayde) Koonce abt 1929

burning birch bark, they were falling every place, but we saved the main house and the old log house.

We were working trying our best to save everything we could. People were coming down the road screaming and hollering, "Take my wife to the hospital", somebody would holler. "Take so-and-so in. Can't you possibly take somebody to the hospital? They're burned and they're dying", and this was going on all night long, but we couldn't leave. My mother was pumping water until the handle of the pump got so hot she had to quit.

After all this the Red Cross came to our aid. They gave us lumber enough to build a cheap barn, which was nice. They gave us food enough for our horses, but they wouldn't give more than enough to last a couple of days. So my mother and I, it was then winter, had to drive four miles, or more, to Moose Lake twice a week to get about four bales of hay and a couple of sacks of oats. Anyway, we got through it.

So, that was my experience with the MOOSE LAKE FIRE.

# Editors Corner

(Continued from page 2)

interesting ways of sharing genealogy on the internet too. We should have more on that in the next newsletter.

I would like to continue publishing this newsletter until the end of 1998. That will be five years, which was my original commitment. In the meantime I would be willing to work with someone else that would like to be interested in being editor/publisher. This will allow me more time to spend on research.

## On To Nashville

On my way to Nashville, Tennessee for the gathering of Koonce researchers I stopped in Bond County Illinois to do some preliminary research. While in Bond County I visited my second cousin, Hazel Smith, (see *KtoK January 1994*, pg. 7) who always offers me a homey place to stay and even turns down my bed each night and makes it every morning. Hazel turned 91 this year. (She spoils me).

Hazel & I went to Girard, IL to visit Nina Hatfill (see *KtoK January 1994*, pg. 12) who has written many stories on the history of Mulberry Grove, IL. Nina was married to Harley Hatfill, who was the son of Josie Koonce Hatfill. Nina told me that her granddaughter, Mary Neft who lives in Decatur, IL, was interested in the Koonce genealogy. On my way back from Nashville Mary & I had a short visit.

Dean & Nelda Anthony are always on my list of people to visit whenever I get to Bond County. They live in Greenville, Illinois. Dean is president of the Bond County Genealogical Society and Nelda is the corresponding secretary. Without the help and dedication of these people, I would not have the information that I have on my family. They are very dedicated people and I thank them. They had received a hand drawn map of Mulberry Grove from around 1899. They let me take a copy to computer enhance it. When we are done it should be a very valuable research tool. Also they had some old copies of the Mulberry Grove Argus. These were thought to be non existent. We will try to restore them so they can be used for

research. Copies of the 1880 & 1900 Bond County, Illinois census were obtained from them.

Hazel & I also visited Woody & Nina Koonce (NC Koonces) in Mulberry



Woody & Nina Koonce

Grove. One of their daughters & two of their granddaughters stopped by for a visit. If Nancy & I are lucky one or two of those granddaughters will visit us, here in Somerset, next summer.

Helen Koonce (NC Koonces) of St. Louis asked me to call if I was in the area. Mulberry Grove is only 50 miles

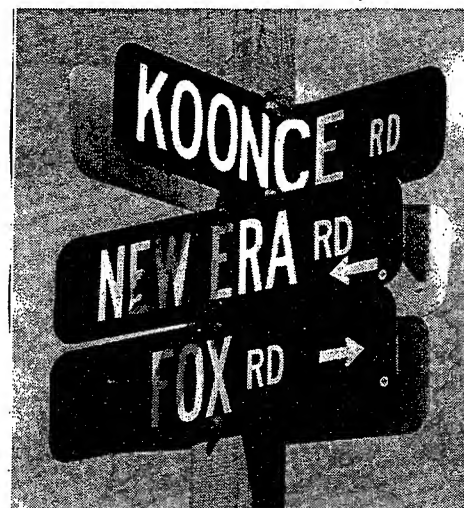


Helen Koonce

east so I called and picked her up to help me find Goodland cemetery in Iron Co. MO, about 50 miles SW of St. Louis.

Rachel Koonce Adams is buried there. We spent an entire afternoon looking but didn't find it. Nancy & I plan to look some more on our next trip.

After leaving Bond Co. I went to Murphysboro, IL to visit Lindell & Katy Koonce (Virginia Koonces). They live near



the intersection of Koonce Rd., New Era Rd. & Fox Rd. We had a short but enjoyable visit. Lindell let me borrow several pictures and articles on his line of Koonces to be used in the Newsletter. It's help like this that makes it possible to continue. From there it was on to Nashville, Tennessee.

The first gathering of Koonce researchers was in Nashville, Tennessee on August 7-9. It was attended by Tom Palmer, Madison, WI (Virginia Koonces); Bob & Janet Koonce, Arlington Texas; Marshal Koonce, Memphis, TN; Billie Jean & Lowell Kamper, Holtville, CA; Ronnie Gibbs & his mother; Jeannine & William Keenum, Athens AL; John Koonce, Somerset, WI; (all from the NC Koonces).

One of the most important bits of research information I found was that the records that are on microfilm are not necessarily the original records. The statement "bond I have on my mother" in the will of James H. Koonce (see *KtoK October 1995*, pg. 5) has bothered me for several years. I found the original will in the Metropolitan Government Archives, at another building in Nashville. It reads, "bona I have on my mother". We all know what a bond is but I didn't know what bona meant. This is from Black's Law dictionary. BONA: Goods, property, possessions, used to designate all species

(Continued on page 8)

# THE TRECK TO TEXAS

Excerpt from  
"RECOLLECTIONS OF  
A LONG LIFE"

BY  
William Aaron SPALDING  
(1869-1957)

## CHAPTER 3 THE TREK TO TEXAS

*(Ed. Note: Sophia Ann Koonce is a descendant of the North Carolina Koonces and was the daughter of Philip and Nancy Dodson Megee Koonce.)*

My grandfather (William Woodruff PARKS) and his wife (Sophia Ann KOONCE PARKS) and their four older children with a Negro slave woman, Hannah, and her two small children left Fayetteville, Tennessee in a caravan about October 1, 1852 on their way to Texas. They crossed the Mississippi River at Memphis, the ferriage across cost \$6.25. The roads between the Mississippi and White River at Devalls Bluff were found extremely bad and they reached Little Rock, Arkansas on October 18, 1852. The caravan proceeded on their way until they reached Arkadelphia, about 60 miles southwest of Little Rock, on October 22. Here their trouble began. In addition to wagons breaking down they were beset by a great deal of sickness such as chills and fever, flux and typhoid fever. They laid up here two or three weeks while my grandfather was down with the fever - part of the time unconscious. Upon his recovery some time in November he decided he was in no physical condition to resume the trip to Texas. My grandmother had an older sister, Jaal Wood (Koonce) who had married Michael Yeager and was living then in Ouachita County near Camden. When my grandfather was able to travel he went to see the Yeagers, a trip of about 50 miles. Finding that he could rent a farm and get a school to teach he decided to defer the trek to Texas until the fall of 1853. The stay in Camden was pleasant and the school and farming were successful. They left three bales of cotton for Michael Yeager to sell.

The Parks family resumed their trek to Texas leaving Camden, Arkansas probably late in October, 1853. For the trip my grandfather employed Miles Harper as wagoner and to help with the livestock. During their travels in Arkansas one night the Negro boy, Bob, 4 years old became lost and was not found until the next morning. When questioned he said a big black dog had stayed with him all night. My mother (Laura Jane PARKS SPALDING) always maintained the caravan crossed Red River at Colberts Ferry. For many years before the coming of the railroad in 1871, Colberts Ferry was just north of Denison, Texas. Of course, it is possible there was a Colberts Ferry on the direct line between Camden and Texarkana.

My mother, 5 years old at that time, remembered one incident of the crossing where they could not get one of the horses on the ferry boat. They let him swim alongside the boat.

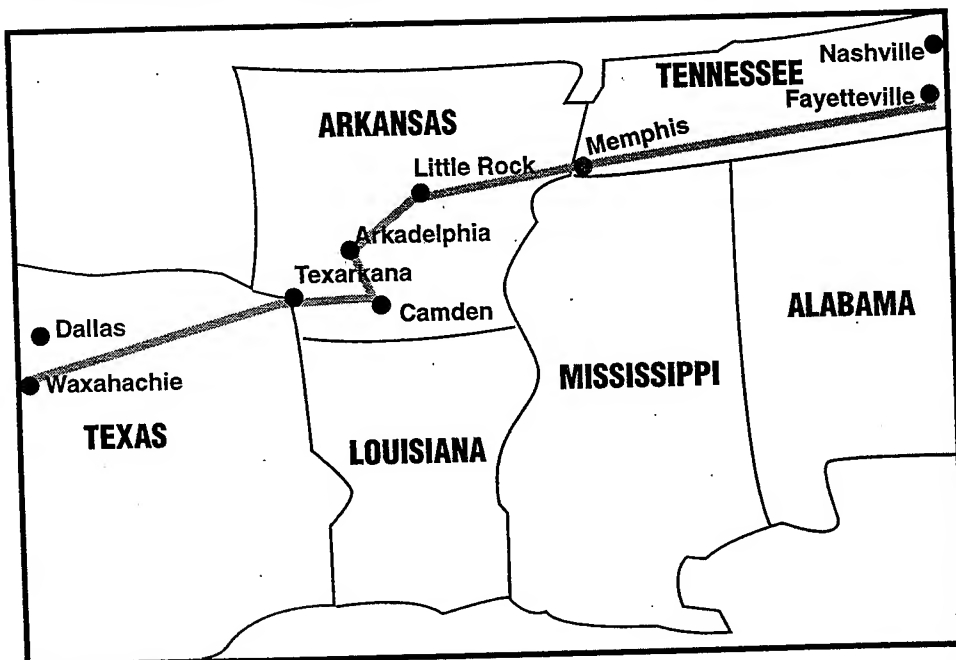
On arriving in Waxahachie on a cold day in December, 1853 they went to Jerald D. Marchbank's dry goods store, the only one in town except probably a grocery and saloon, to get warm. My grandfather had a brother, Allen Parks, who had preceded him to Texas, and had

acquired considerable land about three miles down Waxahachie Creek, now known as the Yarbrough place. They stopped there a short while; then moved back to Waxahachie where they rented a house for a while.

On January 23, 1856, they bought the D. W. Wright place of 23 acres which lay east of Hawkins Street and south of Jefferson Street and extending east to Patterson's Alley. Shortly afterwards the sold the easternmost seven acres to Y. Baker. The remaining sixteen acres remained undivided and in my father's control until it was divided among the five sisters in 1882; my mother retaining the old home place which remains in the family to this day.

My grandfather began business in Ellis County as a land surveyor in 1854. Many of the original grants were surveyed by him. On the next election after his arrival he was elected District Clerk and retained this office, with his surveying business, until he left for the war.

Reference: information furnished by Bill SPALDING of Waxahachie, TX (1985) DAR Library Catalog. Vol. one. *FAMILY HISTORIES AND GENEALOGIES*, Catalog #11695.



As described in the above story, this is the route the Parks took from Tennessee to Texas



## ??? QUERIES ???

John Koonce b. abt 1801-3 m. Mahala. Lived in Memphis in 1860. Later moved to Mt. Pleasant, TX. Had a daughter, Nancy b. 1839 m. Henry M. Hays. Who were his parents? Where was he born? What was Mahala's maiden name? Query from Larry W. Smith, Celina, TN.

\*\*\*\*\*

Robert Koonce, born 1803 in Wilson Co. TN. Son of Lemuel Koonce and Else Jarman. Last known location was Fayette Co. TN about 1835. Does anyone know where he went or what happened to him? Any information on his family? *James Hargraves, 7698 Lakeridge Circle, Elk Grove, CA 95624-9650*

\*\*\*\*\*

Member F.A. Briggs, 2106 Moultrie Rd., Camden, SC 29020, needs any information on the family of James Lee Koonce, b. abt 1866. m. Narcissa Scott. Sons name is Usher David Koonce, b. 4 Dec 1886, m. Mary Susan Raynor. Usher & Mary had a daughter named Idell Koonce, b. 9 June 1913, m. Harry Waldo Dotson.

\*\*\*\*\*

New member, Jon Koonce, from Oregon City, OR, is the son of David Franklin Koonce, of Richlands, NC. His grandfather was Henry Farriar Koonce, born about 1885. Who was Henry's father?

\*\*\*\*\*

My fifth great grandmother was a Koonce. I don't know much about her. Her name was Rachel Koonce and she was married to David Adams. I know they had a son named Nelson who married Rebecca Stephans. Nelson and Rebecca were living in Missouri at the time of their death and are buried in the Goodland Cemetery in Iron County, Missouri. This is information I picked up in the Ozark Heritage, Dent Count Missouri Area Cemeteries & Families, Volume III. This book also says Nelson was Rev. Nelson Adams. Do you have any information that might be helpful? Marilyn K. Larsen; P.O. Box 33; Sand Point, Alaska 99661; Phone (907) 383-2262; FAX (907) 383-2252; E-Mail MLarsen2@aol.com

## Wm Cox & Mary Francis Koonce

(From "The Heritage of Onslow Co. NC")

William Andrew Cox (1809-1874) the son of John Cox and grandson of Andrew Cox, was born in Jones County, North Carolina. He first married Charity Brantley. His second wife was Mary Frances Koonce, (known as Polly) born in 1821, the daughter of Michael Koonce of Jones Co. but later migrated to MS.

The children of William Andrew Cox were: Mary Brantley who married John Martin Franck; John F. Cox, b. 1840; Ann Eliza who married A. F. Hammians; Julia F. who married William Kinsey; Wm. Andrew, Jr., b. in 1848; Elizabeth Jane Cox; James Bryan Cox; Laura Elizabeth Cox who married Calvin Koonce; and the youngest, Rebena.

William Andrew Cox served in the North Carolina House of Representative from Jones County in 1856 and 1858 and was a very respected and honored man in his county and state. But in the aftermath of the Civil War, in the year of 1869, Mr. Cox was forced to file for bankruptcy, for he had signed so many notes for friends who were not able to make good on their loans. In order to be able to continue to take care of his family he made an agreement with his dearest friend, the minister of his church, to deed to the parson a large tract of land, and when the legal proceedings were over, the land to be returned to its owner. When the time came for the minister to return the land, it seems he forgot his part of the bargain and had sold the property to a large lumber company for a huge sum. Needless to say this ended a friendship of long standing!

1874 - Letter To Rebena Cox - from Michael Koonce written in 1874: "Coopwood, Winston Co., MS - November 25th 1874.

Miss Rebena - your letter of the 2nd Inst. came to me the 20th was glad to hear that my relations were well and blessed with tolerable good crops. My self and family are enjoying very good health. There is not much to write about. - The price of cotton is very low, which governs the Trade of our County. Times are hard with many who have indulged in the credit system. We can't tell this spring what the result will be in making a crop and should not extend our credit!

I have put me up a gin which cost \$550. I think it will be profitable to me and my family for years to come. We are taxed here three per cent on what we are worth. If it goes any higher, they might as well confiscate our property and give it to the precious Negroes and Grant's pets. A Negro here can get pardoned by the Gov. for murder while a white

man must serve his time. We have a Negro Lt. Gov., and most counties have Negro Sheriffs & Clerks. I live in hopes of seeing better times even if I die in despair.

I feel proud to think that I have Nieces and Nephews that think enough of me to desire to hear from me. I think the young folks here enjoy themselves. Good many have married and I think they wanted to marry, but not many of them bettered their condition. Industrious, prudent and economizing young men are very few these days. A worthless man should be beneath a virtuous Lady's notice. Never be too hasty in making a choice of a husband. Be sure to make a wise choice. It depends entirely on your future happiness.

Tell Laura she has not written a letter in 6 mo. Seems she has forgotten me - or she has more to do and can't spare the time to write.

You may be quite a Good Girl. I hope that you are. I can say one thing to you, if you believe you will never better your condition by marriage stay with your mother or your next best friend. There is much deception in men as well as Ladies. Be sure that you know a man well before you give your Heart and Hand to him. There are responsibilities on married women that you know nothing about.

I may yet be fortunate enough to see my relatives again but there is at present many difficulties to prevent me from doing so. The first is old age, second easily overcome with fatigue and third not very good health. If it is the Will of the Lord I hope to see my relations.

I was never satisfied to live in NC and never could persuade any of my relatives to move to this country. I should feel wretched if I were to cause any of my relations to move here and then to be dissatisfied. Any person in any country having a home and making good can live without the favors of others. But all young persons with farming capacities who are destitute of farms in any old county could do well to move West or SW. Lands are cheap and homes could be obtained for mere trifles.

I have written to you quite a long letter and have little more to interest you. I know little of the Muse in regard to marriage and frolicking fashions and customs of the country here Write again when it is convenient. Accept my love and extend the same to our relations. May heaven bless you all.

Your most affectionate Uncle  
signed, Michael Koonce

Sources: Cox family history; Battle family book; Koonce family of eastern NC; old family letters and stories. Annie Koonce Ragsdale



# Editors Corner

(Continued from page 5)

of property, real, personal, and mixed, but was mote strictly applied to real estate. This makes sense out of the will now.



Billie Jean & Lowell Kamper

Other information I found were many land documents on the land that was owned by John & Elizabeth Koonce and upon the death of John went to his wife, Elizabeth, in the care of James H. and when James H. died, George seems to have taken charge of selling it. George was selling the land up until 1929. That is when he went to Bond County Illinois. This is important because we have found no concrete information that proves George and James H. are related. This is



Bob Koonce, Arlington, TX

just more circumstantial evidence. After this issue of the Newsletter goes to press I plan to sort out all the information I gathered in Nashville and put it together for future issues. It was a good gathering.

From Nashville we went to Paris Landing, on Land-Between-The-Lakes, for the Koonce Family Reunion (Formerly held in Blythville, AR, NC Koonces). What a beautiful place. We all had a great time. Besides most of the group from Nashville, there was Claude Hardison, from Cleveland, TN and Leona Hinton Bryant from Camden, TN. They are also doing research on their Koonce lines. And of coarse all the Koonce clan from the Tennessee & Arkansas area. As always, it is a great pleasure seeing and visiting with all of



Tom Palmer, Madison, WI

these fine and hospitable Koonces.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Alma Deen Rogers for all the work she did to make the arrangements. A great big thank you to Alma. Her husband, Harold, brought his boat an fishing gear, including his own home-grown red wigglers, and showed everybody how fishing is supposed to be. The first night he caught 30 pounds of Catfish and the next day he caught another bunch. Harold is so shy that he cleaned them before I was able to get a picture, but I saw enough evidence to believe him. Besides, I saw him in action up here in Stillwater, MN where he caught a large

Tennessee Walleye (Carp).

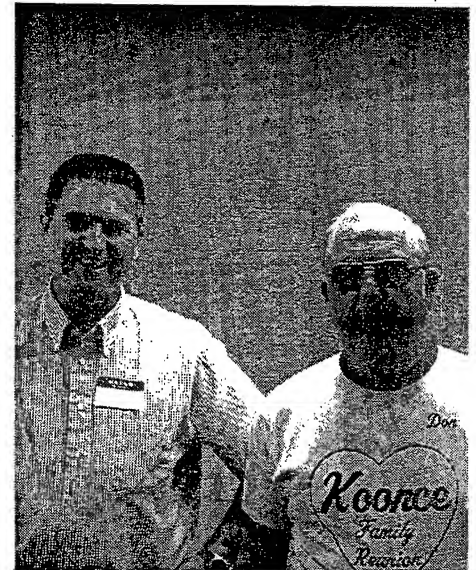
Alma is always looking for ways to make things more fun and exciting. When she asked for suggestions for some fun and exciting games, Mack Koonce, Hot Springs, AR, suggested standing the



Claude T. Hardison, (NC Koonce line)

Yankees up against a wall and throwing rocks at them. That motion was defeated 312 to 1. I didn't count how many were in attendance and but the vote sounded fine with me. Just to show Mack that there was no hard feelings I invited him, and his rocks, to go fishing with me after dark, but he had other things to do. (all in jest)

I you want to have a very good time, make sure you attend that reunion next year at Paris Landing. Contact Alma Deen Rogers; 110 Kemmons Dr.; Jackson, TN 38305. (If you live below the Mason-Dixon line contact Mack.)



Don Koonce & Son with Koonce T-Shirt

# Obituaries

## JAMES ANDERSON KOONCE

*(James is from the North Carolina Koonces and is the son of the Honorable Judge James Franklin Koonce)*

James Anderson Koonce, 84, Florence, died Wednesday, July 3, 1996, at the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Assisted Living Facility, after a brief illness.

Mr. Koonce was born Dec. 9, 1911, in Florence and was the son of Judge James Franklin Koonce and Mary Jane Anderson Koonce. He had been a member of the First United Methodist Church since 1921 and taught Sunday school classes and had served as superintendent of Sunday school, chairman of the Administrative Board, had been a lay leader, president of the Men's Bible Class on several occasions, served on the CFA Committee of the North Alabama Conference and had served on many other church committees.

He attended Coffee High School, and was president of the senior class and was a member of the football team. He attended Florence State College and was president of the freshman class. He attended the University of Tennessee from 1930 until 1933 and was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and the football team coached by Gen. Bob Neyland.

In 1943 he entered the U.S. Navy and served on the destroyer Ralph Talbot. (see KtoK Vol.2 Issue4, Page 1). For 21 years he traveled for Neely Harwell and co. of Nashville, Tenn. In 1957, he joined IDS Financial Services-American Express as a financial planner. He had an outstanding record and was elected to the Diamond Ring Club. Only one-half of one percent of the 8,000 planners in the nation have received this honor. The Birmingham division honored him by creating "The Jimmy Koonce Award" to be given annually to the financial planner who has shown outstanding achievement for service, excellence and dedication to his clients. He was chairman of the Board of Four Lane Investment which co-developed the Four Lane Shopping Center and the river bottom property including Dale's Restaurant and the Longshore Cycle Center buildings and various other properties.

Member of the Florence Downtown Lions Club where he had served as president and with 48 years of perfect attendance, Lions deputy district governor two terms, Lions International Convention Committee twice, state president of

Alabama Sight Conservation Association and the Rehabilitation Center Board. He was a life member of American Legion Post No. 11, member of VFW Post No. 5140 where he served as Commander in 1947. He served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board, president of the Florence Chamber of Commerce, Building Committee for the Lauderdale County Courthouse, chairman and president of the United Way and member of the City Medical Board for construction of Florence Hospital. He was a Shriner and a member of the Cahaba Temple, Huntsville, the U.T. Alumni Club and the U.T. Hall of Fame Club.

The funeral service was at the First United Methodist Church, Florence. Burial followed in the Florence City Cemetery with Dr. Barry Anderson and the Rev. Leonard McDowell officiating. Elkins Funeral Home of Florence directed.

Mr. Koonce is survived by his wife, Melva Moody Koonce, (See Melva Koonce Obit in This Issue.) Florence; a daughter and son-in-law, Annette Koonce Sampson and Paul Leslie Sampson, Johnson City, Tenn.; one granddaughter, Kemberly King Pinegar, Birmingham; one grandson, Alan Scott King, St. Louis, Mo.; five great-grandchildren, Jordon Tyler Pinegar, Connor Riggs Pinegar, Bailey Chandler Pinegar, Thomas Anderson King and Abby Taylor King; a sister and brother-in-law, Katherine Hamby and the Rev. Mack Hamby, Florence; also survived by a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Merwin Koonce and sisters, Nell Crossman, Susie Dowdy, Nola Koonce and Thisbe Riley.

Pallbearers were Myron Wilson, Alan Edgeworth, Gene Hamby, Al Ford, Robby Wilson, Mike Hambrick, Hansford Wilson, Peter Paine and Robert Redd. Honorary pallbearers were Gordon Smith, Henry Jones, Sam Futrell, A.I. Beadle, Richard Knapik, Bill Robinson, John Caspers, Bill Keenum and members of the Florence Downtown Lions Club, members of the Men's Bible Class and the Administrative Board of the First United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church Building Fund.

## MARY MELVA KOONCE

Mrs. Mary Agnes Melva Moody Koonce, 81, Florence, widow of James A. Koonce, died Saturday, Aug. 17, 1996, at the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Annex, after an extended illness.

Mrs. Koonce was born Nov. 15, 1914, in Russellville and was the daughter of the late Alexander Curran Moody and Mary Ettah Sandlin Moody and sister of the late Austell Moody.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church and a graduate of Florence State College.

Mrs. Koonce was active in several genealogical societies including: Past National President of Society of Southern Dames of America, Daughters of American Revolution, organizing member of Ralph Leftwich Chapter of Colonial Dames XVII Century, United Daughters of Confederacy, Daughters of the American Colonists, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, The Huguenot Society of Alabama and National Society Daughters of Colonial Wars, Inc.

The funeral service was Monday, Aug. 19, 1996, at 4 p.m. at Elkins Funeral Home chapel, Florence. Burial followed in the Florence City Cemetery with the Rev. Dr. Barry Anderson and the Rev. Leonard McDowell officiating.

Mrs. Koonce is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Annette Koonce Sampson and Paul Leslie Sampson, Johnson City, Tenn.; granddaughter, Kimberly King Pinegar, Birmingham; grandson, Alan Scott King, St. Louis, MO; great-grandchildren, Jordan Tyler Pinegar, Connor Riggs Pinegar, Bailey Chandler Pinegar, Thomas Anderson King and Abby Taylor King; a number nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Myron Wilson, Alan Edgeworth, Al Ford, Robby Wilson, Henry Jones, Hansford Wilson, Greg Beadle and Terry Haddock.

Honorary pallbearers were Gordon Smith, Sam Futrell, A. I. Beadle, Richard Knapik, Bill Robinson, Bill Keenum and Gene Hamby.

Memorials may be made to the University of North Alabama Foundation Melva Moody Koonce Scholarship Endowment Fund. UNA Foundation Office, UNA Box 5059, Florence, Ala., 35632-0001

# Obituaries

## SHIRLEY ANN KOONCE

(Shirley married Robert S. Koonce, Sr. He is from the North Carolina Koonces and is the son of Robert Malcolm Koonce.)



Shirley Ann (Posey) Koonce, 60, of Turrell, Ark., retired nurse for Wright Clinic, died Thursday at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis after an auto accident. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at West Memphis First Baptist Church, where she was a choir member, with burial in Crittenden Memorial Park in Marion, Ark. Roller-Citizens Funeral Home in West Memphis has charge. Mrs. Koonce, the wife of Robert S. Koonce, also leaves two daughters, Shelah Foster of Memphis and Mellisse Marley of Bartlett; a son, Robert S. Koonce, Jr. of Arlington, Texas; three sisters, Rosetta Thurmond of Cordova, June Brock of Lubbock, Texas, and Betty Wilson of Germantown; a brother, James E. Posey of Memphis, and seven grandchildren.

## WILLIAM FRANKLIN BELIN

(William Belin married Ella Koonce, the oldest daughter of Richard Nixon Koonce of the North Carolina line.)

William F. Belin, 78, died July 1, 1941. He was a member of one of Bradley county's oldest families, for a number of years was marshal here.

He is survived by his wife, the former Miss Ella Koonce, whom he married February 28, 1885; five sons, Switzer Belin of Smackover, Curtis Belin of Jonesboro, and R. W. Belin, Louis Belin, 111, and W. F. Belin, Jr.; five daughters, Mrs. R. N. Reynolds of Camden, Mrs. Edwin Hankins, Mrs. Cone Turner, Mrs. F. G. Watson and Mrs. Charles Jolley; 27 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Interment was in Oakland cemetery in charge of Frazer's Funeral Home.

## MRS. ELLA KOONCE BELIN

(Ella is a descendant of the NC Koonces and daughter of Richard Nixon Koonce, Sr.)



Mrs. Ella Koonce Belin, 77, wife of the late William Franklin Belin, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. F. G. Watson, Saturday, April 26, 1941 at 8:40 p. m. She was born April 15, 1864, in Warren and resided in Bradley county all her life. She was a member of one of the county's oldest and most prominent families. Mrs. Belin was a member of the Methodist church.

She is survived by five sons, R. W. of Creole, Miss., Curtis of Jonesboro, Switzer of Smackover, Louis and Frank of Warren; five daughters, Mrs. Finis Watson, Mrs. Edwin Hankins, Mrs. Charles Jolley, Mrs. Cone Turner of Warren and Mrs. R. N. Reynolds of Conway; two sisters, Mrs. H. W. Biggs of Hot Springs, and Miss Belle Koonce of Warren; one brother, J. B. Koonce of Kerrville, Tenn.; twenty-eight grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Watson with the Rev. L. E. N. Hundley officiating. Burial was in Oakland cemetery.

Pall bearers were: Louis Ederington, J. T. Ederington, Ernest Hawkins, Nick Turner, Frank Culbreath, J. H. Cunningham, Grady Hughes and Carl Hollis.

## HENRIETTA LEE KOONCE

(Henrietta married Howard S. Koonce. Howard is a descendant of the Virginia Koonces)

Henrietta Lee Koonce, 75, of Halltown W. Va., died Monday, May 1, 1945 at Jefferson Memorial Hospital in Ranson, W. Va.

Born in Jefferson County, W. Va., she was the daughter of the late Robert Lee and Amy Moler Murphy.

She was a member of St. John's Episcopal

Church in Harpers Ferry, W. Va. and the Women's Church Auxiliary.

Henrietta Lee Koonce was a member of the Harpers Ferry Women's Club and Order of Eastern Star of Charles Town.

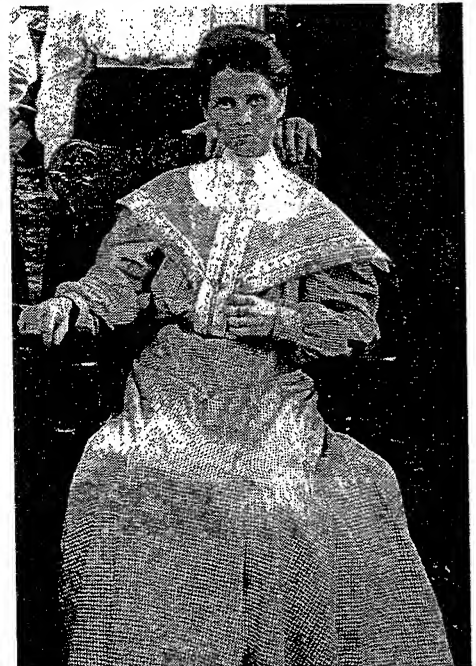
She is survived by her husband, Howard S. Koonce; one son Stafford H. Koonce of Kearneysville, W. Va.; one sister, Charlotte M. Watts of Hagerstown; and one grandson H.S. Leigh Koonce.

Graveside services were held at 2 p. m. Friday at Pleasant View Memory Gardens in Martinsburg, W. Va. The Rev. Randall Tremba officiated.

Memorial donations may be made to Jefferson Mem. Hospital Preston St. Ranson, W. Va. 25438.

## MARY BELLE KOONCE

(Mary Belle is from the NC Koonces and was the daughter of Richard Nixon Koonce, Sr.)



Miss Mary Belle Koonce, age 90, died Monday night, April 11, 1960, following an extended illness.

She was born in Warren, AR, March 4, 1870 and was a member of the First Methodist Church.

She is survived by several, nieces and nephews, Mrs. Jolley, Mrs. F. G. Watson, Mrs. Edwin Hankins, Mrs. Cone Turner, Frank Belin, all of Warren; Mrs. R. N. Reynolds of Camden; Curtis Belin of Helena; Switzer Belin of Smackover; Mrs. J. A. Talbot Pine Bluff, Mrs. Jim Barren of of Fordyce; Mrs. S. B. Ray Millington, Tennessee and Billy Koonce of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Burial was in Oakland cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Billy Jolley, Charles Womble, Will Turner, Justin Richardson, C. E. Englehart, Jr., Edwin Hankins, Jr., Bob Reynolds and Billy Tom Reynolds.

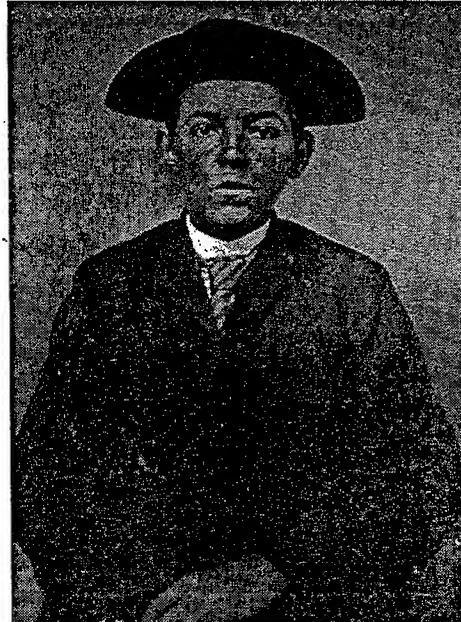
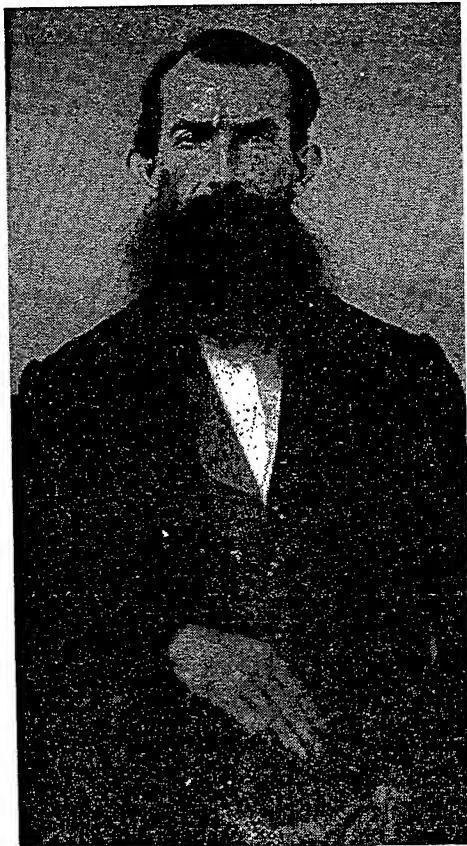
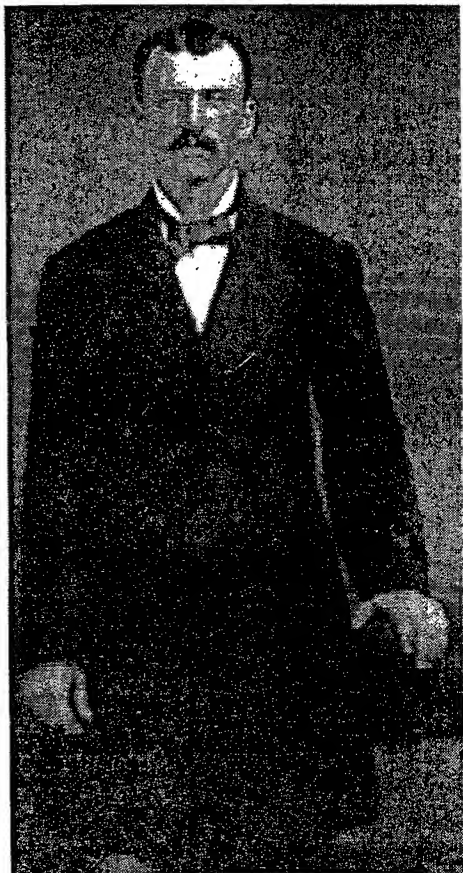
Ladies in charge of the flowers were Mrs. James R. Moseley, Mrs. Will Turner and Mrs. Arthur Weiss.



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## WHO ARE THEY?

These old tin-type pictures were with several others identified with the family of Richard Nixon Koonce and a Switzer family. They belong to Mary Belle Doolley, Camden AR. A descendant of Richard.